



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## First Pitch Nears for Local Softball Teams

Noe's Bar, Haystack, and O'Greenberg's Among Our Giants

By Corrie M. Anders

Every year, in early March, the local boys of summer start to get antsy. They start itching for the smell of the grass, the crack of the bat, the joy of camaraderie, and the post-game rewards of pizza and pints of beer.

But the agony is almost over. After the long winter layoff, softball season is about to start for a motley collection of athletes who represent Noe Valley in the city's recreational league.

"I'm absolutely looking forward to it," says Sid Aguilar, the player-manager for "Noe's Bar," one of San Francisco's premier softball teams. "When you win, it never gets tiring."

By the end of the month, Aguilar and his 51-year-old knees will be squatting behind home plate in his New York Yankee-style, pin-striped uniform.

Noe's, sponsored by—you guessed it—Noe's Bar at the corner of 24th and Church streets, is a hardcore team, whose nucleus includes Aguilar's identical twin brother, Fred, and four others who've been with the squad since its inception 15 years ago.

Daniel Owens is younger than the Aguilars. He's a 33-year-old outfielder for a fun-first bunch of players on a team known as O'Greenberg's Joint Subcommittee, the "Joint Subs" for short. This year, the nine-year-old team's goal is to rise above mediocrity and reward its sponsor—O'Greenberg's tavern at Dolores

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

## Cara Black Pens Number 10

Sleuth Leduc Goes After *Murder in the Palais Royal*

By Heather World

After exploring the bowels of the celebrated Palais Royal—and interviewing employees of the French Ministry of Culture on the floors above—Noe Valley author Cara Black has produced the 10th novel in her popular Aimée Leduc detective series.

"I'm really happy with this book," says Black of *Murder in the Palais Royal*, released this month by Soho Press. "I love that area [of Paris], and I have wanted to write about it for a long time."

Black's novels follow the intrepid investigations of Aimée Leduc, a half-American, half-French private detective and computer security specialist with an office near the Louvre.

The mystery series traverses Paris from neighborhood to neighborhood, focusing on a different arrondissement (or neighborhood) in each book. Black builds her stories based on real-life events and in-



Owner Jamil (James) Abu-nie (right) attributes Shufat Market's 38-year success to the dedication and hard work of the family, including (from left) his brother Kamal (Mike) Omar, son Mahmoud Abu-nie, niece Tina Omar, and nephew Ahmad Omar. Photo by Pamela Gerard

## Shufat Market—the Granddaddy of Mom and Pop Stores

By Tim Innes

They call stores like Shufat Market "mom and pop" groceries, but the name doesn't tell half the story.

"Mom and pop, brothers and sisters, and sons and daughters" would be a more apt description of the shop at 3807 24th Street near Church Street.

Three generations have tended the store since its opening 38 years ago, making it one of the oldest family businesses in Noe Valley.

"We've succeeded because of everyone working together," says owner Jamil (James) Abu-nie, the oldest son of store founder Mouhammed Omar. "Everyone is dedicated to a common purpose."

That dedication translates into long hours. The store is open from 8 a.m. to 2

interviews with city workers, café owners, and shopkeepers. Leduc herself is based on interviews with several female Parisian detectives, Black says.

The first nine books in the series have won fans and acclaim, both here and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Noe Valley author Cara Black is singing in the rain about the publication of her 10th Parisian mystery. Photo by Pamela Gerard

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Wait Times on the J, 24, 35, and 48 May Soon Get Longer

By Karen Topakian

Muni riders, take note. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency has proposed to help close a \$16.9 million gap in this year's budget by making service cuts on all four Noe Valley transit lines: the 24-Divisadero, the 35-Eureka, the 48-Quintara/24th Street, and the J-Church rail line.

If the agency's plan is approved, the changes will go into effect on May 1.

Of the four lines, the 35-Eureka, which travels in a loop from Market and Castro through Noe Valley and Diamond Heights, would experience the biggest cuts in service. Hours of operation would be reduced from the current 5:30 a.m. to 11:20 p.m. to 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends). In addition, the buses would run every 30 minutes instead of every 20 minutes, seven days a week.

The real workhorse of Noe Valley, the J-Church line, would also see reductions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## Ministry to Close For Yearlong Renovation

Nursery School, Others Looking For New Homes.

By Heather World

The 122-year-old Noe Valley Ministry will shutter its arched façade for at least a year this November to undergo a major renovation, scattering celebrated neighborhood institutions that call the building home.

Depending on the money raised, the building will emerge as a house of worship for three distinctive groups—Christians, Jews, and Muslims—or wind up as a simple restoration with more accessibility and a sound foundation.

The overhaul, which will cost at least \$3 million for the simplest plan, is long overdue, says Rev. Keenan Kelsey, pastor of the Presbyterian church that owns the building and worships there.

"We have reached the point where a plumbing repair is no longer \$200; it's \$2,000," she says. The church is also anxious to install an elevator, to make entry easier for the disabled.

Still, the closure will have far-reaching consequences, because the building at 1021 Sanchez Street is home to a nursery school, a senior lunch program, numerous 12-step meetings, dance workshops, and the Noe Valley Music Series, not to mention the office of the *Voice*.

The Noe Valley Cooperative Nursery School, which has been on the premises since its founding in 1969, cannot afford to wait out construction and pay the \$400,000 in capital improvements that the church wants for the school space, says director Susan Edwards.

Mary Carbonara and other parents are looking for a new home for the school's 30 students, but prospects have been scarce, she says. Though the school has two promising leads, one of them in Noe Valley, it will still need to negotiate a lease, renovate, and file for licensing before school starts next fall.

"We're trying to do everything by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

### Contents

Books to Read .....	43
Calendar .....	26-27
Class Ads .....	46-47
Cost of Living in Noe .....	21
Crossword .....	8
Groups .....	41
Last Page .....	52
Letters .....	9
Neighborhood Services .....	44-45
On 24th Street (will return next month)	
Police Beat .....	23-24
Rumors Behind the News .....	49-50
School Report .....	39
Short Takes .....	31
Store Trek .....	35

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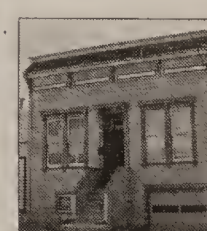
651 27th St.



277-279 29th St.



1 Baker, #3B



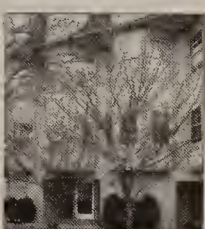
471 Banks



4338 Cesar Chavez



120 Chenery



80 Collingwood, #401



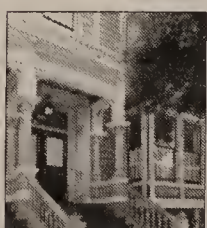
332 Day



3701 Geary, #501



45 Lloyd



847 Oak



532 Peralta



130 Roanoke



77 Van Ness, #604



38-40 Virginia



1735 Wawona



3900-3902 22nd St.



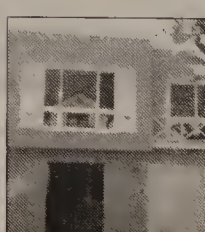
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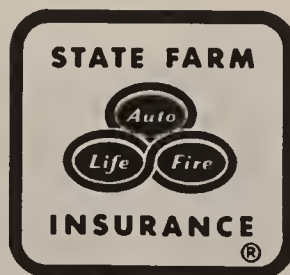
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## 140 Commonwealth



### Beautiful 3-level 5BD/3.5BA Home.

Extra large lot with artist studio over garage. Has 4 bedrooms on 1 level including incredible master suite. Kitchen w/ breakfast area. Deck, garden and lots of pkg.

**Offered at \$3,942,500**  
Eileen Mougeot (415) 321-4242  
Jamie Howell (415) 321-4399

## 290 Frederick Street



### Wonderful Victorian In Ashbury Heights.

Walk two blocks to Cole Street! Recently renovated with amazing detail. The master bedroom has an en-suite and its own fireplace. 3BD/3BA. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances, a dual-zone wine refrigerator, and two dishwashers. 2-car side-by-side pkg.

**Offered at \$2,099,000**  
Bruno Abbott (415) 321-4239

## 1606 Castro



### Lovely 3BD/3.5 BA Noe Valley Home.

Rebuilt in 2004, this charming Victorian has an ideal floorplan and amenities for modern living. It boasts a large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, 1/2 bath on main level and open eat-in kitchen/family room combo. Storage & 2+ pkg.

**Offered at \$1,875,000**  
Ron Sebahar (415) 321-4295

## 178 27th Street



### Noe Valley Jewel.

3BD/2BA home. Beautiful & well-configured, with structural upgrades. Cook's bistro-style kitchen w/ breakfast room that opens to an enchanting garden. Living Rm, Dining Rm, Den + Bonus Rms down. 1 car garage.

**Price Upon Request**  
Jamie Howell (415) 321-4399  
Caroline Kahn Werboff (415) 321-4260

## 350 Valley Street

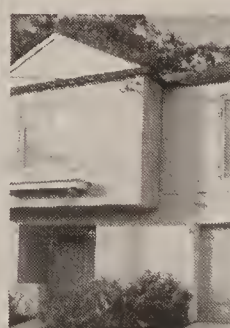


### State-of-the-art Noe Valley Home. Ideally

located between vibrant 24th and Church streets, this 3BD/ 2.5BA+2 car garage home boasts the open floor plan everyone wants. Chef's kitchen (Sub-Zero, Miele, Viking) with French doors that open to wood deck, spa & lush private garden.

**Offered at \$1,429,000**  
Ron Sebahar (415) 321-4295

## 68 Mangels



### Lovely 3BD/2BA Glen Park Home.

Well maintained home just 5 blocks to Glen Park BART-right on the Glen Park/Sunnyside border. The main floor has an open floor plan with kitchen/living and dining rooms. The bright kitchen is remodeled and has new stainless steel appliances.

**Offered at \$875,000**  
Beth Kershaw (415) 260-2321  
Don Gable (415) 350-3854

## 380 10th Street, Unit 19



### Architecturally Significant SOMA 2BD/2.5BA Loft.

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## 350 Broderick #301

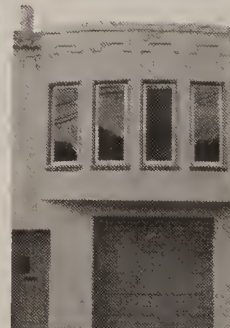


### Broderick Place Beauty. Bright

1BD/1BA unit with Large Broderick St. facing terrace. This unit features hardwood floors, custom tile entry, designer cabinets, stainless steel appliances, stack washer/dryer and 1 car parking.

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James White (415) 321-4383

## 454 Edinburgh Street



### Classic 20's Home In Excelsior.

Remarkable home with two bedrooms & one bath on the main floor and one bedroom/office on the lower level. Owned by same family for many years. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room, breakfast area. Hardwood floors. 3 car garage, level back yard.

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Don Gable



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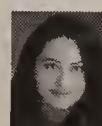
Debra Lee



Michelle Long



Robert Mayer



Betty Michael



Eddie O'Sullivan



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## Saint Paul's Parish

### *Holy Week and Easter Services 2010*

OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS ARE INVITED TO COME AND PRAY WITH US.

<b>PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY</b> Saturday, March 27 Sunday, March 28	Palms are blessed and given out at all masses 4:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Spanish), 12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.
<b>TUESDAY</b> March 30	<b>Tenebrae Service: Praying the Passion of Jesus</b> 7:30 p.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> March 31	<b>RECONCILIATION SERVICE WITH PRIVATE CONFESSION</b> 7:00 p.m. Spanish and English
<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> April 1	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)</b> 7:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00 p.m.
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> April 2	<b>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</b> Confession / Reconciliation, 11:00 a.m. - Noon Good Friday Spanish Service, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Confession / Reconciliation, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> April 3	Confession / Reconciliation, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection, 7:30 p.m.
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> April 4	<b>Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection</b> Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:15, 11:00 (Spanish) 12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Together, we shall celebrate new Life!

*The Lord has risen. Alleluia!*

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**EASTER SUNDAY MASSES at 8, 9:15, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 and 5:00 p.m.**

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### *Holy Week Services* **2010**

**Palm Sunday, March 28:** The blessing of the palms (outside) before the 10:30 a.m. Mass, with procession into the church. (Masses: Saturday: 5:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) Palms distributed at all Masses.

**Holy Thursday, April 1:** Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. in the hall. Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m. concludes with Eucharistic Procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 2:** Celebration of the Lord's Passion begins at Noon, which includes the Good Friday Liturgical celebration of the Lord's Passion.

**Holy Saturday, April 3:** Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m. with the blessing of the Easter fire and lighting of Easter Candle.

**Easter Sunday, April 4:** Masses: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

### COME AND JOIN US FOR EASTER

The Priests and Parish Community of Saint Philip the Apostle Parish wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter!



## NOE VALLEY MINISTRY

Presbyterian Church, USA

1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street 415-282-2317

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided  
Rev. Keenan C. Kelsey, Pastor

### Lenten Theme:

### Dancing Through the Chaos

Sundays in Lent: March 7, 14, 21

"Psalms for Singing" Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Lunch and Lenten Study, Noon

### Holy Communion

Sunday Morning Worship, March 7, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

### Lenten Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.

### Palm Sunday, March 28

Joint Service with Dolores Street Baptist

10:30 a.m. at NVM

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

Supper and Program, 6:30 p.m.

### Easter Sunday Celebration, April 4

Festival Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch, Noon

All Events are Free with Open Seating

Noe Valley Ministry is an Inclusive Church, Welcoming to LGBT

## worship with us during Holy Week



We invite you to visit any of our Holy Week services.

Come and celebrate this special time of anticipation of Easter with our diverse community of worshippers.

### Palm Sunday

- Procession of the Palms  
10am Service

### Holy Week Services

Monday, 7pm Eucharist at St. John the Evangelist  
Tuesday, 7pm Seder at St. Aidan's  
Wednesday 7pm Tenebrae at Holy Innocents

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

6:30pm Community Potluck and Eucharist

### Good Friday, April 2

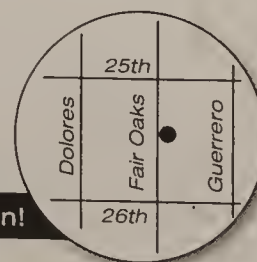
12 Noon, Stations of the Cross at Dolores Park  
7:30pm, Meditation Service

### The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday April 3

7:30pm at St. John the Evangelist

### Easter Day

Sunday, April 12  
9am Family Service  
11am Eucharist



Join us for our Easter celebration!

Visit our website for complete details during Holy Week

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## Noe Valley Skies



**Sky Reportage.** When you have hills, as does Noe Valley, you can often find a view unobstructed by power wires. Our photographer caught these clouds from Duncan St. in February as the changing weather pushed dramatic light and patterns across the most elemental of stages.

*Photo by Najib Jae Hakim*



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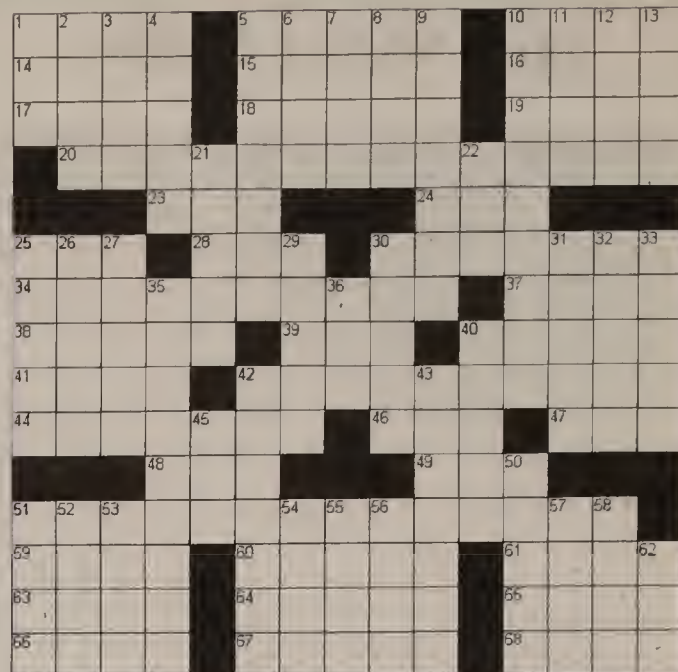
3898 24th ST @SANCHEZ tel 821-1050

## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Fair Trade

#### ACROSS

1. Mamma Mia quartet
5. Willy Wonka creator Dahl
10. Pier 39 performer
14. 10 miles per hour, say
15. Loosen
16. \_\_\_ for All Seasons (1966 film)
17. Coffee variety from Hawaii
18. Hollywood's Laura and her father Bruce
19. Ask to produce proof of age
20. The only pushpins allowed on the Coldwell Banker bulletin board?
23. Luxury hotel in San Diego Bay, with "The"
24. Disencumber
25. Sterling Bank offerings, for short
28. Prone (to)
30. 1996 Olympic venue
34. How former 49er Jerry pays for his Haystack Pizza?
37. "Just the facts, \_\_\_"
38. Banishment
39. A golfer may break it
40. \_\_\_ grievance: complaints
41. Freebie for Basso's diners with laptops
42. What Placido Domingo uses to carry his Whole Foods groceries?
44. Legal taking of property
46. Doze
47. Leaky tire sound
48. Drunk \_\_\_ skunk
49. London loos, briefly
51. 24th Street store ... or two words that say what's happened to 20-, 34- and 42-Across
59. Cartoonist Goldberg



60. Dwight's opponent in '52 and '56
61. Native Saudi
63. Company part
64. '70s Defense Secretary Melvin
65. 12 bottles of wine; e.g.
66. Rubber ducky's milieu
67. "He missed by \_\_\_!"
68. Baby-bouncing place and others
10. Edible Honolulu Airport souvenir
11. Purchase at the Apple Store
12. State Senator Leno
13. Concludes
21. Quiet partner?
22. Up to, briefly
25. Workers on ships
26. Paper cup brand
27. Star Trek genre
29. Conical dwelling
30. Ohio tire city
31. Deal breakers?
32. Jobs to do
33. Accumulate, as a fortune
35. Street between 23rd and 24th
36. Preserve, as vegetables
40. Pet protection gp.
42. Chorus syllables
43. Clint Eastwood TV series
45. Can.'s southern neighbor
50. Quick bite
51. Chow
52. \_\_\_ moth (pale-green insect)
53. Brief passing words?
54. Cheese similar to Gouda
55. VI x VII
56. Sandburg or Sagan
57. Ma's ma
58. Lighten, as a burden
62. Hive dweller

Solution on Page 43

NOTE: See the Noe Valley Voice Crossword, including all past puzzles, at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

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**Who Do I Thank for Muni Cuts?**

Editor:

I'm new to the neighborhood and very happy to be here. It's exciting to see so many neighborhood groups listed on your website. However, I'm disappointed to read about the businesses and neighbors who resisted extending parking meter hours on 24th Street.

Congratulations, folks. Muni has decided not to find new revenue sources; instead, they'll be cutting service across the city. Here in Noe Valley, frequency on the 48 bus line will go from 12 to 20 minutes. Hope those 24th Street businesses are happy now!

Could someone let me know which is

**LETTERS**

the neighborhood group to join for people who care about livable, walkable, transit-friendly streets? And will the pro-transit businesses cited anonymously in the December issue please speak up so I can spend my money there? I don't care to live in a suburb, thanks.

Josh Wallaert

**Help Cheese Company Age**

Editor:

It has come to our attention that the 24th Street Cheese Company at 24th and Sanchez streets has suffered a sharp downturn in sales due in part to the nagging economic recession but more specifically to the arrival of a new outlet of the Whole Foods grocery chain on 24th Street. Those of you who have shopped at the Cheese Company know that it is an irreplaceable treasure trove of fine wines (especially Argentinean), choice cheeses, and other specialty delicacies. The shop's wonderful wares, along with its knowledgeable and friendly service, are not duplicated at any other food store in the area. And now we stand to lose this invaluable institution if patronage does not pick up—and soon.

If you, like us, agree that a lively and diverse neighborhood such as the one we cherish in Noe Valley absolutely depends on the continued existence of sophisticated little emporia like the Cheese Company, please, *please*, make a stop at this store part of your regular shopping habits.

David Clay Large  
Dave Emanuel**Fewer Restaurants? Who's Counting?**

Editor:

In your February 2010 article on the City Planning Commission's efforts to lift a restriction on the number of 24th Street restaurants ["City Clears the Way for More Restaurants on 24th Street"], reporter Corrie Anders quotes two sources who claim that diners must choose from seven fewer restaurants today (from 29 to 22) than in 1987, when the ordinance was agreed to by city planners.

I'd be most curious to see that list of the missing seven. Of those closed/missing, how many were simply replaced by another establishment serving food? My guess is that that number is just the figment of the imagination of the sponsors of this attempt to add full-service sites.

I've worked, walked, and lived in our

hood those many years, and I can come up with only one location now not operating, and that one is currently under construction, having housed in the past few years a string of failed food-service providers.

Tom Norwick

**Garden Nursery Has Local Honey**

Editor:

Thank you for writing about my store in the Store Trek section of the February 2010 issue. It seems like every other person who has come into the store since then has told me, "I read about you in the *Voice*."

I wanted to make one correction, though. I do not sell beekeeping supplies. I do stock local honey and many plants that attract pollinators. I can advise anyone who is interested in setting up a habitat garden on how to get started. Being a beekeeper myself as well as a gardener, I have a lot of info gained through my own work. Thanks again.

Susan Prentice, Owner  
Independent Nature  
1504 Church Street

*The Voice regrets the mistake, and will correct it on our website.*

**Dogs Don't Play Tennis**

Editor:

As a dog owner, I appreciate the convenience of Noe Courts, the park at Douglass and 24th streets. However, as a grandmother I appreciate the park even more. Today, in the rain, there were no children in the playground, but a man was allowing his dog to urinate on the play equipment, and another dog was in the tennis courts and more dogs were on the basketball courts.

It would be wonderful if dog owners would yield to the "No Dogs" sign on the tennis courts, keep their dogs out of the playground, and support a fenced grassy area for picnics for people only.

BJ Droubi  
Droubi Team/Coldwell Banker  
4157 24th Street  
www.DroubiTeam.com**Well-Deserved Recognition**

Editor:

Good job! I enjoyed reading about my longtime, great friend Lorraine Lombardo (whom I haven't seen for some time). She deserves this recognition ["Of-

**Apologies to****Helen T. Weinschenk, 1912-2010**

The *Voice* accidentally printed the wrong birth date for Helen Weinschenk in a photo caption in the February issue. The story was correct, but we're very sorry about the caption error. Mrs. Weinschenk, who died Jan. 19, 2010, at the grand old age of 98, was born Jan. 14, 1912. She and her husband, the late Arthur Weinschenk, owned and operated the Wooden Heel Shoe Repair Shop on 24th Street for 26 years.

Helen's long, joyful life—she once described herself as a "happy-go-lucky character in a pretty good world"—was celebrated in a vigil and funeral mass at St. Philip's Church in January. A member of St. Philip's Parish since 1949, Helen Weinschenk was known for her devotion to her church. "Hardly was there ever something going on at St. Philip's—like the festival or something involving the seniors—that there wasn't a cake baked by Helen Weinschenk," noted friend and parish member Bill Yenne.

Mrs. Weinschenk's many Noe Valley friends, especially those living or working near her home on 24th Street (behind Ambiance), paid tributes last month with store window displays and fond remembrances. She is survived by son Arthur H. Weinschenk, granddaughters Tami Brigman and Karyn Booth; great-grandchildren Taylor, Richard, and Camryn Booth; among other family members. The family asks that donations be made to St. Philip School, 665 Elizabeth Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

ficer Lorraine Lombardo—On the Beat for 20 Years," February 2010]. Since she became a police officer, she has dedicated herself to becoming the BEST, and has overcome insurmountable obstacles in doing so. San Francisco is better for having her to serve. Thanks for this tribute.

Georgia Gregg

**LETTERS to the EDITOR**

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Email [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com) or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146 (yes, that's the Noe Valley P.O.). Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Note that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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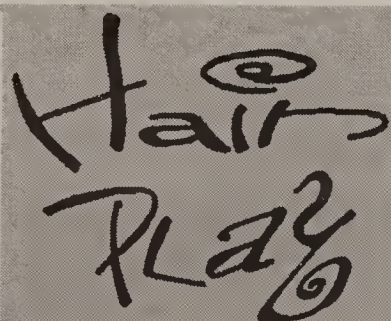
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

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## Three Generations Watch Over Shufat Market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grocery business in Palestine in 1955, he emigrated first to Brazil and then to Nicaragua, where he owned a dry goods business. After the devastating Managua earthquake in 1972, he came to San Francisco and bought the store on 24th Street from the Louie family. He named it after Shufat (sometimes spelled Shuafat), his hometown on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

One by one, Omar's wife, four sons, and daughter followed him to San Francisco. James took a detour along the way, earning a degree in industrial engineering from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Omar retired from the store in 1987 and died in 1992. His wife, Tamam Khalil, passed away in 1997.

Today, just two of Omar's sons—James Abu-nie (who took his mother's surname) and Mike Omar—are active in the business. A third, Jamal Omar, owns Pay n Save Grocery on Guerrero Street. The fourth, Kamel, returned to the West Bank. Their sister, Jamila, who is not involved in the business, still lives in Noe Valley. All told, about 30 members of the clan—all American citizens—live here.

Helping at the store are James' sons, Omar and Mahmoud. Mike's daughter, Tamam (Tina), and son, Ahmad, staff the deli counter.

Tina Omar, a 32-year-old fashion designer, comes in three days a week. "We volunteer our time," she says. "It's part of our culture to help out in the family business."

Ahmad Omar, 24, started helping at the store when he was 11. "I'd come in after school and sweep up," he says.

Ahmad, who aspires to become a firefighter, spends his free time preparing for the Fire Department's qualification exam and volunteering at Station No. 19 on Ocean Avenue.

Until her death early last year, James' wife, E'nam Fatima Abu-nie, also worked at the store.

Mike says his father first went to New York, but found it overwhelming and left after two weeks; he found San Francisco more congenial. Mouhammed Omar's



Shufat Market owner Jamil (James) Abu-nie and niece Tina Omar get a kick out of an old photo of the store, showing family members in their 1970s garb, long hair, and mustaches.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

fluency in Spanish after many years in Central America helped him feel at home here, Mike says.

Though Mike and James often converse with each other in Arabic, they speak English and Spanish with equal facility. One recent afternoon, Mike simultaneously answered a reporter's questions in English, redeemed a customer's lottery ticket in Spanish, and spoke to daughter Tina about a deli order in Arabic.

The store is busy throughout the day, with spikes at noon and early evening, when lines form at the deli counter. Many customers are regulars, greeting the shopkeepers by name and swapping stories about family, jobs, and weekend activities.

The market, which began life in 1907 as Hoffman Bros. grocery store and butcher shop, is well stocked without seeming crowded. Drinks, including many moderately priced wines, occupy the most space, but shoppers are also greeted by displays of produce, juices, homemade cookies and brownies, and

specialty teas and coffees. Refrigerator cases offer eggs, milk, and cheese, while shelves are laden with boxes of cereal and crackers, cans of soup and chili, and jars of salsa and barbecue sauce.

The store also offers a variety of convenience items, from detergents to diapers, fuses to flashlights, and condoms to aspirin. Lottery tickets and phone cards are also popular, says James.

In reviews of Shufat on the website Yelp.com, customers heap praise on the family, as well as their wares.

"[They] are the *niciest* people. Warm, genuine, appreciative, friendly. It's why I shop there," says one reviewer.

"Love this place!" writes another. "The sandwiches are so delicious because they are not simply made, they are crafted. The family that owns the place are...the sweetest people ever."

Adds a third: "Simply put, this place is like Cheers [the bar made famous in the television series] all wrapped up in a freaking corner store. And yep, you're

going to feel like Norm."

With customers like these, it's no wonder that James, 64, and Mike, 62, are in no hurry to hand the business over to the next generation.

"Retire?" asks Mike. "What would I do? Being busy keeps you young."

Though the brothers return to the West Bank every year or two to visit family, their hearts are in Noe Valley.

"I love this neighborhood," says Mike. "It has changed a lot over the last 35 years, mostly for the better. I've watched kids grow up and then come back with their kids. It's a great place."

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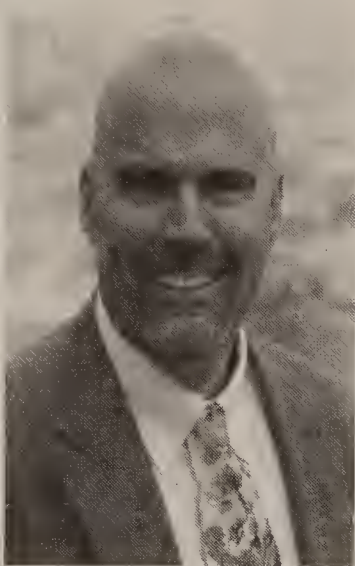
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Behind a counter filled with muffins and homemade brownies, Shufat owner James Abu-nie helps a customer with his purchase. One of Noe Valley's most venerable Mom and Pops, the shop is bustling from 8 a.m. in the morning till 2 a.m. at night.

Photo by Pamela Gerard





CHARLIE MADER

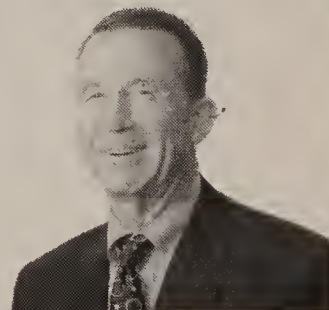
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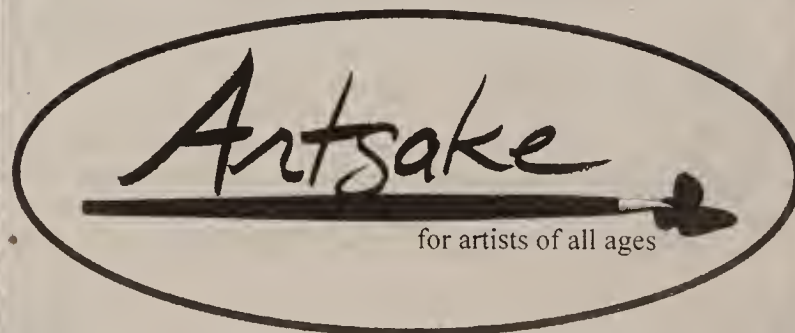
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## Church Vision: Three Faiths Under One Roof

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

book, but the book takes time," she says. "We're on pins and needles, but spirits remain very high."

Others, like Project Open Hand's senior lunch program, will relocate temporarily.

Site coordinator Wendy Cohen says the organization is looking for an alternative space—ideally in Noe Valley—to serve the 20 to 25 seniors who come five days a week for the noontime meal.

"We don't know what will happen," she says. "I don't see anything out there."

The congregation itself is investigating options for a spot, says Kelsey, and the church will try to bring back the senior lunches after remodeling.

Such accommodation might be harder when it comes to the Noe Valley Music Series, a fixture since 1981. Producer Larry Kassin would like to stay in the neighborhood, but he hasn't come across a viable space yet.

"If anybody has ideas, they can contact me," he says, laughing but not joking. "My main concern is that they won't have the money, and [the renovation] will go on for years." Staying afloat in a satellite location may not be feasible for long, he says.

### Seeking Partners, Donors

All the tenants say they've known for a while that renovations would be coming. Kelsey says discussions began five years ago, but the 55-member congrega-

tion quickly realized it would need help with costs. Thus was born the idea of bringing the three major Western religions into one home, she says.

The process has been as rocky as the Temple Mount, however.

"The tri-faith vision keeps coming together and falling apart," says Kelsey.

The Jewish synagogue Beyt Tikkun, which currently worships in the building, saw the space more as its San Francisco outpost than as a home, so now the Ministry is talking to Or Shalom, which worshipped there long ago. The imam who hoped to bring a Muslim congregation into the fold suffered a significant economic loss in the recession and had to pull back. However, before Kelsey could find a new Muslim partner, the imam called to say he wanted to stay involved.

The Noe Valley Ministry congregation has raised \$1.5 million so far, says Bill Jackson, who chairs the capital campaign with fellow congregant Chris Keene. Jackson, chief executive officer and president of a nonprofit school information website, says the Ministry can benefit from its role as the heart of the community.

"More than three quarters of the people who walk through the door are affiliated with the community purposes," he says, listing the concert series, educational classes for children, AA and other group meetings.

Keene and Jackson hope to find a couple of Noe Valley residents who can contribute something like a half-million dollars over three years. In turn, the church could recognize them by naming some portion of the building after the donors.

"My own belief is that there are several dozen individuals in Noe Valley who can make that kind of gift," he says.

Some will give to support the idea of



If the Noe Valley Ministry is able to achieve its most ambitious plans, the upstairs sanctuary space will be expanded to accommodate the accoutrements of three religions, including an arc for the Torah and a mihrab pointing toward Mecca.

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Built in 1888, the Carpenter Gothic church at 1021 Sanchez Street is set to undergo a major renovation starting in November.

Photos by Jack Tipple

harmony among the three Abrahamic faiths, says Kelsey.

"There's nothing earth-shattering about Jews and Christians sharing space," she says. But add a Muslim group and you have a new paradigm.

A preschool, too, could add to the pot. Noe Valley has a high demand for preschool slots, and the Ministry hopes to find a school that can afford the capital improvements and become a partner in the space.

The improvements would give a school better access to the courtyard outside, says architect John Goldman. He has rearranged the inside of the church extensively, but its exterior will be left largely intact.

"What I'm really doing is removing the bad additions and restoring the building the way it was originally," says Goldman, whose architectural practice is about two-thirds devoted to houses of worship.

The church was originally a one-story building designed by Charles Geddes, the architect of Yosemite Chapel and other noted churches in California. Its design is Carpenter Gothic, essentially American Gothic design created of wood. Construction ended in 1888, and three years later the architect who helped design San Francisco's "flat-iron" Phelan Building, William Curlett, lifted the church and added a bottom floor. There has been no comprehensive renovation since then, though the roof was replaced in the mid-1990s.

### A Mihrab Facing Mecca

Goldman's redesign will open up the second floor, which now includes the sanctuary and a dance studio, and make it one level space that will accommodate almost twice the number of worshippers. A new chancel along the east wall will feature two cabinets, one for the accoutrements of Christian worship and one to house an arc for the Torah.

There will be storage space for the rugs that must roll out over the hardwood floors during services for Muslims, and a mihrab—a niche that points east toward Mecca—built in a wall near the northeast corner. "The angle is 18 degrees east of

due north in San Francisco," Goldman says.

He also is adding a bay on the north side, which will hold a new kitchen and interior stairs. "[The design] adds some needed space and brings a lot more light."

Downstairs, the preschool will share space with offices, a multipurpose room, modern restrooms, and a small dedicated mosque with its own smaller mihrab. The plans include creating a special place where Muslims can perform their ablutions before entering the mosque.

"I think it's really exciting," Goldman says.

### Holding the Vision

Incorporating the necessities for Islam will add about \$2 million to the cost. The imam has told Kelsey he still hopes to gather his faithful, but after so many ups and downs, she knows she must keep her goal in perspective.

"We are holding that vision, but holding it more lightly," she says.

More than six years ago, the Ministry was given part interest in the parking lot on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez, estimated to be worth about \$3 million at the time. In a worst-case scenario, the Ministry could sell the parking lot, but Kelsey says she would prefer the lot remain as it is, as a site for the popular weekly farmer's market.

Jackson also expressed hope the church could raise the money without touching the lot. He is setting his sights on raising another \$1 million this year.

"If we can get to that, then I think we'll be within striking distance," he says. After a private campaign, the Ministry can then go public, seeking grants and asking for public support.

Kelsey says the congregation has faith in the outcome.

"I wake up every morning, saying, 'Okay, God, show me the way,'" she says. "I don't know how it's going to happen, but it will happen."





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## 10th Encore for Cara Black's Detective Leduc

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abroad. Last year's novel, *Murder in the Latin Quarter*, debuted at the top of the *San Francisco Chronicle's* bestseller list. In August, the author was interviewed in Paris by National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

Often the plots are fast-paced, and *Palais Royal* is no exception. As the story opens, Aimée Leduc learns that her business partner, René Friant, has been shot near fatally, and eyewitnesses put Leduc at the scene of the crime. Meanwhile, huge sums of money have been deposited in her firm's bank account. Someone seems to be impersonating Leduc, and it may relate to a youth she sent to jail in *Murder in the Marais*, the first book in the series.

The action takes place in October of 1997, shortly after Princess Diana's fatal car crash in a Parisian road tunnel. France is riveted by the tragedy, but also preoccupied with another event: the war crimes trial of Maurice Papon, a police official in Bordeaux who deported more than 1,600 Jews during World War II.

"At the time, France was looking at this painful past," says Black, who writes from her home on Alvarado Street. "Aimée finds people in the Ministry of Culture who are hiding pasts as well."

While researching the novel, Black made a tour of the underground tunnels located beneath the large sculpture garden adjoining the Palais-Royal, the 17th-century palace first designed as a residence for Cardinal Richelieu.

"You could actually go around the whole garden underground," she says.

She also interviewed Ministry of Culture officials and Parisian bank personnel, to verify the authenticity of her descriptions.

Though Paris feeds Black's imagina-



Tracy Wynne (left), owner of Cover to Cover, showcases Cara Black's latest book, as well as Cara Black herself, at a special reading at the bookstore on Monday, March 22.

Photo by Pomelo Gerard

tion. Noe Valley's independent bookstores have fed her career. Cover to Cover Booksellers hosts book-signings and has featured her work prominently over the years. Black says she knew owners Tracy Wynne and Mark Ezarik long before she began writing her first novel back in 1998.

"That was [and is] my local bookstore, with a wonderful children's section," she says. She recalls waiting in line with her son to buy books signed by J.K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame.

"They're what I think of when I think of booksellers. They live and breathe it."

Black also makes use of the late hours of Phoenix Books, she says. And she counts Diane Kudisch, owner of the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, among her close friends.

"She's been in my corner since the beginning," says the author.

This year, Black is a finalist for a best novel award from the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association.

"When I started writing, I never thought I would finish the book, much less get it published or write a series," Black says.

"I was just a mom living in Noe Val-

ley, going up to the playground on Douglass like everyone else."

Success has rewarded but not spoiled Black—she still sleeps on a friend's couch when she visits Paris for work.

"I'm just really lucky to do what I do," Black says.

Black will read at Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro Street, on Monday, March 22, at 7 p.m. She also will participate in Noe Valley Celebrates the Book, a literary festival co-sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley and four local bookstores, on Friday, April 16, 7 p.m., at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th Street. ■

## Muni Riders Can Expect to Wait Longer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in service. During the morning rush hour, 7 to 9 a.m., the SFMTA proposes to run the rail line every 10 minutes instead of the current nine. Midday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., trains would arrive every 12 minutes instead of 10.

From 4 to 6 p.m., wait times on the J would go from 8 to 9 minutes; and during Muni's "evening" hours, 8 to 10 p.m., from 12 to 15. The frequency rate of the J on weekends would stay pretty much the same. Only the 7 to 9 a.m. hours would be affected, with wait times increased from 15 to 20 minutes.

The 24-Divisadero, which travels through Noe Valley on Castro and Noe streets, would have longer wait times, too. From 7 to 9 a.m. the bus would arrive every 12 minutes instead of the current nine. The rest of the day (till 6 p.m.), the 24 would pick up riders every 12 minutes, instead of 10. Evening wait times would stay the same: 20 minutes.

During the late shift, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., on both weekdays and weekends, the wait between buses would increase from 20 to 30 minutes. And during the 24's owl service, 1 to 5 a.m., the buses would come by only once an hour.

The 48-Quintara/24th Street bus, a welcome sight along 24th Street, would not be spared. The line would see a reduction in frequency on weekdays from 12 to 15 minutes during the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Morning and evening wait times would stay the same, 10 and 12 minutes, respectively.

On weekends, wait times on the 48 would go from 15 to 20 minutes. Late-night service also would be reduced from every 20 to every 30 minutes, with an end time of midnight seven days a week.

Exhausted yet? Well, hold on to your hat. The SFMTA was expected to take action on the FY 2010 plan on Feb. 26, just as the *Voice* was going to press. In addition, the agency was considering further service cuts—plus hikes in fares and parking fees—for fiscal years 2011 and '12.

To view the proposed changes or to offer your feedback, go to the agency's website at [www.sfmta.com](http://www.sfmta.com). You can also

attend SFMTA-sponsored town hall meetings—on Wednesday, March 10, 6 p.m.; and Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m.—on the second-floor atrium at 1 South Van Ness Avenue.

### Rail Work on J-Church Line

Meanwhile, Muni will be moving ahead with an \$18.5 million rail improvement project on the J-Church line. Repairs this month will center on the intersections of Church Street and 18th Street and San Jose Avenue and 30th Street, and will include replacement of tracks, utility poles, curb ramps, pavement, and water pipes.

The 18th and Church work is scheduled to start Friday evening, March 12, and finish Monday morning, March 15. The San Jose and 30th Street segment is set for the weekends of March 19-22 and March 26-29.

Crews will work around the clock, but hope to keep noise and debris to a minimum. They'll finish by 4 a.m. Mondays, so as not to disturb the commute. During construction, Muni will provide shuttle buses from Church and Duboce streets to Balboa Park.

For more information, go to [www.sfmta.com/rail](http://www.sfmta.com/rail). ■

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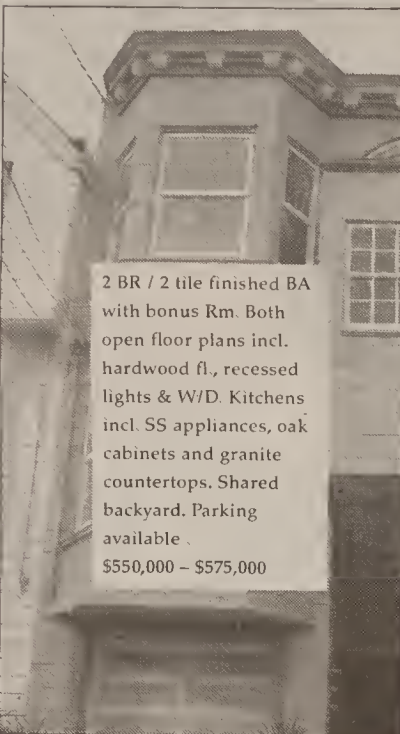
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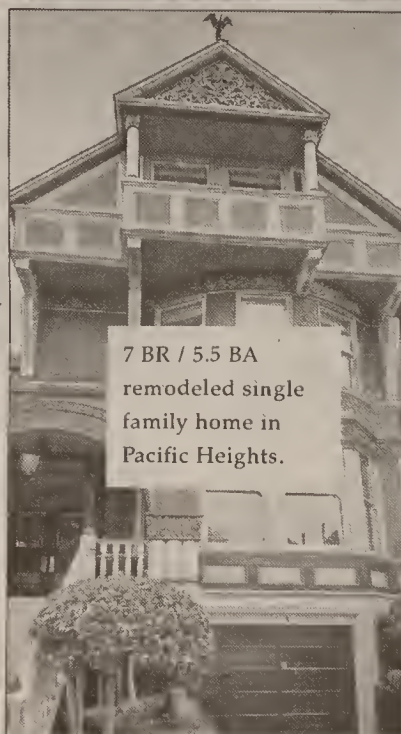
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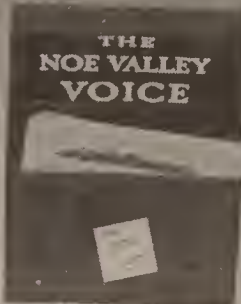


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## Local Ball Players Waiting in the Batter's Box

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and 29th streets—with a trophy.

Then there's the team that doesn't have a nickname or fancy uniforms, just simple black jerseys for the "home" games and gray tops for "road" contests.

"We just call ourselves Haystack," laughs Jason Howe, who as shortstop guards a patch of infield dirt between second and third base. Haystack Pizza Restaurant, on 24th at Sanchez, has been the team's patron since 2004.

Haystack the ball club is full of optimism after coming off its best season in six years and winning its slow-pitch division last summer. The perfect 8-0 record elevated the team into a more competitive division.

"We want to see how successful we can do up there," says Howe, 36, regional manager for a computer training company when he isn't running the team. "We'll see what we're made of."

### City Fields More Than 300

The string that loops Noe's, O'Greenberg's, and Haystack together is the San Francisco Municipal Adult Softball League, which operates under the auspices of the Recreation and Park Department.

The league runs two eight-week seasons, each culminating in two weeks of playoff games. The spring season starts March 26, and league director Joann Dillon says she expects 275 teams citywide to participate. The summer season begins in July, and by then the number of teams should grow to 330.

With games sprinkled around a dozen city parks, including Christopher Field in Diamond Heights, the league offers a variety of sports divisions: all-women teams, senior teams, slow-pitch teams, and fast-pitch teams. There are divisions for players who like their games casual and loose, and others for those who seem hell-bound for glory.

Noe's is in the fast-pitch division, and it's not a place for gimpy players with poor eyesight. The game's signature is defense, speed, and pitchers who can throw a 60-mile-an-hour fastball.

### Team Dominated by Sluggers

Noe's fields a team that ranges from a fresh-legged teenager to an intimidating 59-year-old pitcher who once pitched two complete games in a double-header, to a 61-year-old player who Aguilar says "can't move all that well, but he can still hit."

Aguilar, who grew up on both Jersey and Sanchez streets, is a physical education teacher at an elementary school in Half Moon Bay. He left San Francisco a few years ago "with a very heavy heart" and moved to San Bruno, but he returns every week during the season to help mold a team that has been "very successful."

"In the last 15 years, we've won about 16 championships," says Aguilar. "And we went on one incredible run where we won 10 of 13 championships."

There was a personal-best game a few years ago that Aguilar vividly remembers. The contest came two days before his marriage, when a bunch of college chums and friends from Spain were in town for the wedding. He had already scored one run in a tie game when providence interceded in the late innings.

"I hit probably the longest home run I've ever hit to win it," says Aguilar, still in awe about the 2-1 victory. "Two days before my wedding, with all my friends."

### Boys Just Want to Have Fun

The O'Greenberg's team, which shows up to play in forest-green jerseys, has its



The hard-charging athletes who make up the Noe's Bar team know how to celebrate. The team has won 16 championships in 15 twin seasons in the city's adult recreational league. Shown standing, left to right, are team members Kevin Schneider, manager Sid Aguilar, Lionel Aguilera, Fred Aguilar, and Gary Romero; seated are players Ryan Keating, Sil Gonzales, and Dave Frederico.

Photo courtesy Noe's Bar team

share of peak moments. But they're more mirth than miracle, concedes Owens, a supervisor with the National Labor Relations Board.

"One of the most memorable games was one we tied that we should have won. We made some serious base-running blunders that definitely would have made the blooper film on ESPN," says the Duncan Street resident. "We kind of gave the game away. That sums up our team."

But the Joint Subs are in it to have a good time. "It's more social than athletics," says Owens, whose nickname is "Noodles" in reference to his curly hair. "It's a chance to connect and reconnect with your buddies and with the folks in the neighborhood. Win or lose, we always go back to O'Greenberg's."

Haystack, too, is more focused on the game than on the final score.

"It feeds that competitive edge you have as a guy and the camaraderie of playing with friends and hanging out," says Howe, whose players range in age from 28 to 56. Once the game is over, "we go to Haystack for pizza and a couple of pitchers of beer."

### Lineups Starting to Change

Over the years, each team has had its ups and downs.

After more than a dozen successful seasons, Noe's got a little crusty in 2007.

"We're getting older," says Aguilar. "A lot of teams just got sick of us beating them, and they reloaded and got younger players. For two years we didn't win."

Noe's responded with its own young recruit, Nick Wyatt, a 17-year-old speed demon who plays the outfield and can hit with power. Wyatt's first assignment simply was "to show them what I had," says the Skyline College student, who's played ball off and on since he was 6.

Wyatt helped Noe's to bounce back last year. The team earned a playoff berth in the spring and then won a second-half championship.

"We beat the younger guys, and it was really satisfying," says Aguilar.

The chrome-and-blue championship trophy now sits on a mantle behind the bar at Noe's. Wyatt doesn't get too broken up that he can't share the after-game social hour with his teammates, some of whom are old enough to be his grandfather.



O'Greenberg's tavern has sponsored the Joint Subs team in the San Francisco Softball League since 2001. The squad posed for pictures just before a game last year at James Lang Field. Manager Daniel "Noodles" Owens, rear, fifth from left, says the players hope to improve upon the .500 record posted during the summer season.

Photo courtesy the Joint Subs

"I go to visit my girlfriend," he says.

Age is also a factor in the changing constitution of the O'Greenberg's team. Back in 2001, a group of guys started the team for kicks and "a reason to drink beer on Wednesday nights," says Owens, 33.

The players then were mostly single and in their 20s and 30s. "As of late, more and more guys are having kids and settling down," says the now married Owens, who has 14-month-old twin girls.

"Weekend time is family time," so there's scant opportunity for batting practice or to perfect the double play.

"My guys stopped practicing years ago...which might account for our lackluster seasons of late," says Owens. ■

For more information about the city's softball league, visit [www.sfsoftball.com](http://www.sfsoftball.com) or call the league office at 415-831-6316.

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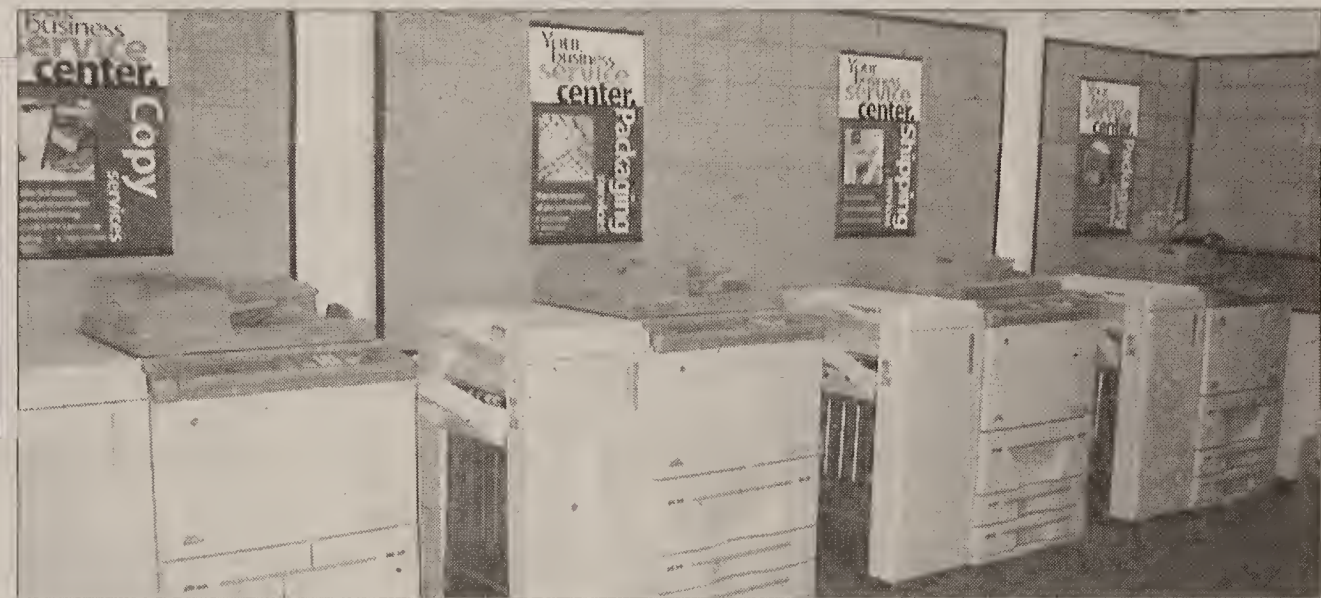




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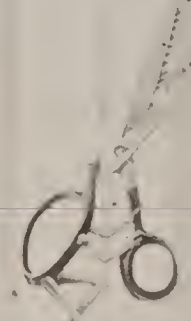
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# Marathon Man Reaches End of Long Run

With Love from His Noe Valley Family

By Tim Innes

Ed Burke—son of Irish immigrants, devout Catholic, devoted family man, World War II veteran, and longtime city employee—was the quintessential Noe Valleyan.

But Ed was anything but ordinary. While his contemporaries were enjoying retirement on the golf course or on a bench outside a neighborhood coffee shop, he was running marathons and leaving competitors a third his age far behind.

Ed's long run came to an end Oct. 14, 2009, three months short of his 92nd birthday. Ed attributed his longevity to giving up smoking in his early 50s and taking up long-distance running, according to granddaughter Heather Green of Day Street.

Edmund J. Burke was born Jan. 15, 1918, to Patrick and Helena "Nellie" Reilly Burke, who had each come to America in 1898 and ended up in San Francisco. Married in 1905, they raised five children—Maggie, Mary, Charles, Francis, and Ed—in a house they built at 15th and Ramona streets, about a block north of Mission Dolores.

At 16, Ed entered St. Joseph's College seminary in Mountain View, but he dropped out after a year and returned to Sacred Heart High School. After graduation, he attended Heald's Business College and worked as a vendor at Seals Stadium, which allowed him to watch baseball games for free.

Following Pearl Harbor, Ed joined the Army Air Corps and saw action in Italy as a bombardier aboard B-24 Liberator bombers. In October 1945, he returned to San Francisco to wed Anne Bramblett, an Army nurse he'd met in Texas, at St. James Catholic Church on Guerrero Street.

Anne, who was raised a Southern Bap-



Anne and Ed Burke cut the cake after their wedding on Oct. 27, 1945.

tist, converted to Catholicism, and the couple became active members of St. Paul's Catholic Church on Church Street.

After the birth of a daughter, Doris, in 1946, the couple spent five years in Anne's native South before returning to the city for good. In 1952, they paid \$11,000 for a new two-bedroom house at 549 28th Street—a house that would eventually be home not only to Ed, his wife, and daughter, but to his three grandchildren as well.

Ed worked as a stenographer at City Hall, then took a meter-reading job with



Two-year-old Ed Burke (left) takes a ride with a bigger friend near his home on 15th Street in the Mission District. Photos courtesy Heather Green

the Water Department—a position that allowed him to work outside and took him to every corner of the city. He retired in 1980 after 20 years with the department.

Though he had started running again in his late 50s—he had run track in his youth—retirement freed Ed to train seriously for the marathon, at 26-plus miles the premier event of long-distance running. To get in shape, he would rise at 3 or 4 a.m., drive to Lake Merced, and make five circuits of the lake, which is about five miles around.

Ed, a compact 5-foot-7, competed into his late 70s and won many age-division trophies along the way. His personal best—3 hours, 16 minutes—came at the age of 62. By comparison, the best time last year for U.S. runners age 60 to 64 was 2 hours, 57 minutes.

Ed was always modest about his accomplishments, said daughter Doris McKay, 63, of Rohnert Park. "Dad didn't like a fuss made over him."

Granddaughters Heather Green and Melissa McKay remember Ed as loving, generous, and fiercely competitive. Melissa recalls losing a footrace up steep 28th Street to her grandfather when she was 13 and he was 65. "I was pretty in shape, but I could not beat him," said Melissa, who's now 36 and owns a yoga studio in New York.

"Gramps hated to lose, and he rarely did," added Heather, 35, who ran one marathon with her grandfather.

In addition to running, Ed played chess every Saturday at the San Francisco Chess Club—a pastime less physical, but just as competitive.

Retirement also found Ed and Anne assuming a greater role in raising their three grandchildren—Heather, Melissa, and older brother Mark McKay—who moved in with them after their parents divorced.

"Gramps put the three of us through St. Philip's and paid our tuition at Sacred Heart Cathedral," said Heather.

"He took care of us," added Melissa. "He made our lunches, attended our games, took us to the zoo."

"I was a runt of a kid and all-time benchwarmer," said Mark, 38, of San Carlos. "The season St. Philip's won the city CYO basketball championship, I didn't get in for a single play. But Gramps was there for every game."

Now a lanky 6-foot-1, Mark says his



Spectators cheer Ed Burke as he nears the finish line of the 1979 Pacific Sun Marathon. He posted a personal best of 3 hours, 16 minutes, the following year at the age of 62.

grandfather encouraged him to be a runner because of his long legs. "But his stamina was far greater than mine, and he got up way too early for a teenager."

Ed also entertained the children, reciting scripture, Edgar Allen Poe, and Shakespeare, and singing hymns, "Danny Boy," and "Streets of Laredo" in his rich baritone.

After the grandchildren left home and Anne died in 1994, Ed remained in the house on 28th Street until December 2004, when failing health forced him to move to Nazareth House, a nursing home in San Rafael.

In a transaction that would have amused the late Harry Aleo, who mocked Noe Valley's "looney" politics and stratospheric housing prices in the win-

dows of his 24th Street real estate office, Ed's family sold the 1,000-square-foot house in early 2005 for \$880,000. After the addition of a second floor containing two more bedrooms and bathrooms, the property changed hands again in March 2008 for \$2.1 million—more than 190 times the original price.

In keeping with Ed's wishes—"I've outlived all my friends," he said—no services were held or obituaries published after his death last fall. Had there been, it would have been noted that in addition to Doris, Mark, Melissa, and Heather, Ed is survived by Heather's husband, Brad, and son, Liam, of San Francisco, and Melissa's son, Phoenix Edmund McKay, of Brooklyn, N.Y.



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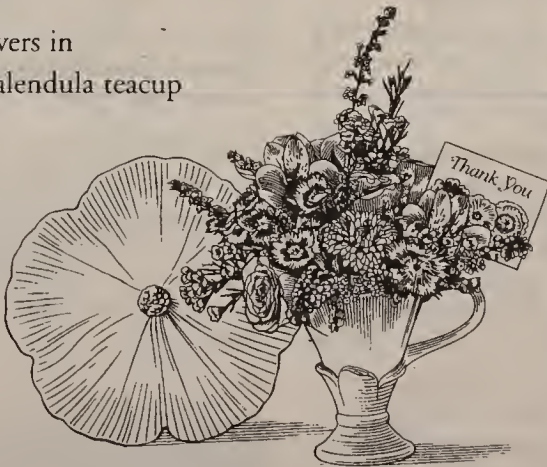
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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## January's Deep Freeze

By Corrie M. Anders

Winter and a fretful real estate climate kept home buyers and sellers in hibernation during January.

Only three detached homes and three condominiums sold during the month, according to Zephyr Real Estate, which supplies monthly sales data on Noe Valley homes to the Voice. The total equaled the same number of properties that changed hands in January one year ago.

But average prices for detached homes declined—and it took far longer to get the deals done. Even the usually weaker condo market showed more resilience than house sales.

"When only three houses are sold in Noe Valley, there's not a lot going on. It was a slow period, and we encouraged our Realtors to go on vacation," said Kostick with a bit of wry humor.

Because the country's sluggish econ-

omy has tamped down both sales and prices, some homeowners may have opted not to sell their properties during the traditionally slow winter months.

Kostick said they probably reasoned, "I'm expecting the market to rebound [and] I don't want to sell at this time and at this price."

Buyers held off too, in anticipation of even lower prices or a wider selection of homes in the future.

The three homes that did sell in January averaged out to \$962,000 in price, contrasted with \$1,182,000 a year earlier. The transactions took an average 126 days to complete, while last year's buyers typically closed escrow in 82 days.

One of the homes skewed the data, taking the better part of a year to sell. The two-bedroom, one-bath house—marred by a lack of parking—stayed on the market for 232 days, until the owners lopped \$100,000 off the asking price.

"You don't hear of 232 days on the market unless you go to Middle America," Kostick said.

Surprisingly, the most expensive of the six homes sold in Noe Valley in January was not a detached home, but a condominium. Buyers paid \$1,420,000 for the three-bedroom, 2.5-bath unit (with 2,440 square feet of space and parking for one car) located on Homestead Street be-

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
Jan. 2010	3	\$757,000	\$1,200,000	\$962,333	126	98%
Dec. 2009	7	\$756,217	\$1,710,000	\$1,300,888	76	97%
Jan. 2009	4	\$945,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,181,875	82	95%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
Jan. 2010	3	\$770,000	\$1,420,000	\$1,131,000	80	96%
Dec. 2009	3	\$755,000	\$796,500	\$770,500	147	98%
Jan. 2009	2	\$950,000	\$1,262,500	\$1,106,250	67	92%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
Jan. 2010	0	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 2009	2	\$1,375,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,400,000	47	98%
Jan. 2009	5	\$920,000	\$1,312,000	\$1,108,800	85	90%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
Jan. 2010	0	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
Jan. 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)) for supplying the sales data.

NV 3/10

tween 24th and 25th streets.

The top-selling detached house went for \$1.2 million. The home, located in the

300 block of Jersey Street between Noe and Sanchez streets, offered two bedrooms, two baths, and a one-car garage.

### A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range Feb. 2010	Average Feb. 2010	Average Jan. 2010	Average Feb. 2009
Studio	14	\$1,025 – \$1,600	\$1,301 / mo.	\$1,278 / mo.	\$1,592 / mo.
1-bdrm	26	\$1,280 – \$2,450	\$1,868 / mo.	\$1,810 / mo.	\$1,965 / mo.
2-bdrm	39	\$1,880 – \$4,200	\$2,663 / mo.	\$2,709 / mo.	\$3,073 / mo.
3-bdrm	24	\$2,595 – \$7,000	\$4,302 / mo.	\$4,210 / mo.	\$3,738 / mo.
4+-bdrm	8	\$3,495 – \$7,500	\$5,218 / mo.	\$5,805 / mo.	\$6,094 / mo.

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 111 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Jan. 28 to Feb. 13, 2010.

NV 3/10

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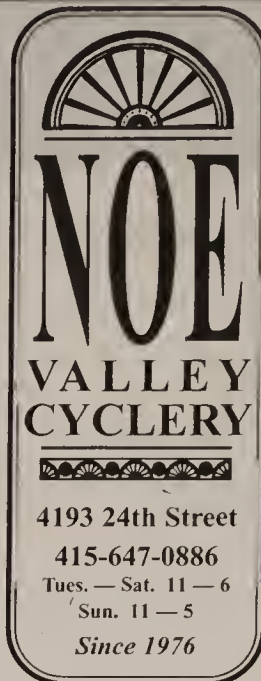
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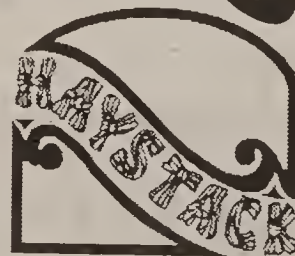
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# POLICE BEAT

## REPORT FROM MISSION STATION

*The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo for providing this tally of incidents occurring in the part of Noe Valley within the Mission Police District. The log includes some but not all incidents reported Jan. 11 to Feb. 10, 2010, in the area bordered by Grand View, 21st, Guerrero, and Cesar Chavez streets. To contact Officer Lombardo, call Mission Station at 558-5400. Her beat is centered on the 24th Street commercial corridor.*

**Jan. 26, 8 p.m., Vicksburg & Elizabeth, Theft from Vehicle:** The victim of a vehicle theft told police she parked her car overnight on the street with the doors unlocked. When she returned the next morning, she discovered that a large shipping box had been taken from the car, along with a camera case containing a digital SLR camera, two lenses, a memory card, and navigation system.

**Jan. 28, 6 p.m., 4200 block of 23rd, Theft from Vehicle:** A woman told police she parked her car on the street overnight. When she returned the next day, she found that her passenger-side window had been broken and her car stereo was missing. The vehicle's trunk was also broken into; subwoofers and a black sweater were taken.

**Jan. 28, 7 p.m., 23rd & Castro, Vandalism:** A man told police that he parked his car on the street overnight. When he returned the next day, he found that his rear passenger-side window had been smashed.

**Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., 300 block of Jersey, Theft from Vehicle:** A woman told police she parked her car on the street overnight. When she returned the next day, she discovered that her passenger-side rear window was

## Rooftop Burglars Foiled on Grand View

*Noe Valley Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo offers her account of a dramatic weekday arrest on Grand View Avenue.*

Three career criminals who set out to burglarize Noe Valley were captured last month, due to calls from several local witnesses and the outstanding police teamwork of two sergeants and 15 officers. On the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 4, on Grand View Avenue near Elizabeth Street, a resident observed three men attempting to pry open the front door of an apartment building with a metal tool. Not realizing they had done enough damage to the door to push it open, the trio left and headed down Grand View to another apartment building. The resident, meanwhile, called 911 and gave a description.

Sergeant Bueno responded to the second building and saw a man in his 20s wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and baggy blue jeans—which matched the resident's description—and holding open the front door. When the suspect saw the sergeant's police car, he ran inside the building and began yelling at the others inside. Sergeant Bueno then observed the three men run up the stairs toward the rooftop. He called for help, and numerous police responded to the area. Another resident called 911 and reported footsteps on the rooftop of the building. Police surrounded the roof but could not immediately see the men. Suddenly, officers yelled from the building's stairwell. Sergeant Benzinger, Officer Asare, and Officer Alejandrino had the suspects at gunpoint.

During the arrests, one suspect asked why they were in trouble. Police advised the men they matched a description in an attempted burglary. The suspects admitted to police they did not live in the building, nor did they know anyone who did. They said they had come in the front door, which they claimed was open, and entered the stairwell to smoke marijuana. The front door is kept locked, and anyone not residing in the building would have to be let in, residents told police.

The witnesses in the case also positively identified the suspects. One had actually seen the burglars inside the apartment building. Back at the first building, officers confirmed the pry marks on the door.

The suspects were taken to Mission Station and booked for burglary, trespassing, and parole violations. All had prior burglary arrests.

broken. Her car stereo and personal items were taken.

**Jan. 30, 1:45 a.m., 25th & Fountain, Auto Burglary:** A witness told police that he was in his house when he heard a loud crash outside his window. When he looked out, he saw a man, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and khaki pants, enter a vehicle on the street through its rear passenger-side window, then leave the car carrying a black bag. Police searched the area but could not find the suspect. Officers located the owner of the vehi-

cle, who said the thief took a blue Nike gym bag containing workout gear.

**Jan. 30, 4:30 a.m., 24th & Sanchez, Theft from Delivery Truck:** A delivery man reported to Officer Johnson that he parked his unlocked truck in front of a 24th Street cafe to unload baked goods. During the unloading, a man approached him and asked for some bread. The bread man told him "no" and continued working on his delivery. When he finished, he returned to his van and discovered that his wallet and cell phone, which had

been left on the passenger-side seat, were gone. Police were unable to locate the suspect, described as a 50-year-old, 5 foot 10, thin-built white male, with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a brown hat and a red/brown multicolored jacket.

**Jan. 30, 7 p.m., 300 block of Jersey, Dog Attack:** Officer Johnson was sent to investigate a dog attack. A man walking with his unleashed dog inside a building reported his dog was attacked by a dog owned by a neighbor, who had left his apartment door open while taking out the trash. The dog rushed out of the apartment and attacked the first man's dog, causing a laceration that needed stitches. The two dog owners then got into a verbal altercation, with the first calling the second a "moron" because he did not try to restrain his dog during the attack. The second owner said his dog was merely protecting his home. Animal Care and Control was advised.

**Jan. 30, 7:15 p.m., Castro & Jersey, Stolen Vehicle:** A white, four-door 2007 Nissan Xterra.

**Jan. 30, 11 p.m., 21st & Church, Stolen Vehicle:** A green, four-door 1991 Ford Explorer.

**Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m., 23rd & Church, Dog Bite:** A man reported to police that he was bitten by a neighbor's dog as he and the dog's owner, who was walking his pet, met in a crosswalk. The man said the dog bit him on his leg, causing bruising and bleeding. The owner of the dog denied that his dog bit the other man. Animal Care and Control was advised.

**Feb. 7, 9 p.m., 900 block of Diamond, Stolen Vehicle:** A yellow 2000 Honda CBRF4 motorcycle.

**Feb. 8, 4:30 p.m., 500 block of Grand View, Arrests:** Police arrested three men, accused of burglary and trespassing. (See box, above.)

**Feb. 10 (reported), 3966 24th St., Thefts of Honey:** Bernie's coffee shop reports that someone has been stealing the cafe's (full) plastic honey dispensers. Anyone with information about the thefts is asked to contact Officer Lombardo at Mission Station.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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# POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

## REPORT FROM INGLESIDE STATION

The following crime log for Upper Noe Valley—an area roughly bounded by Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th, and Diamond streets—has been culled from newsletters produced by Capt. David Lazar, commander of Ingleside Police Station. The incidents are those reported from Jan. 11 to Feb. 10, 2010. Please note that the log may not include all incidents occurring or reported during that period.

**Jan. 12, 1 a.m., 200 block of 30th, Vandalism:** Officer Curry was on patrol when he was flagged down regarding a vandalism report. The victim told the officer that he parked his car a few doors down from his home only to discover that someone had broken out the back window. No one was observed and there was no loss.

**Jan. 14, 9:32 p.m., 400 block of Day, Vandalism:** Officers Covarrubias and Gunter responded to a report of vandalism. The victim said she was inside her home when she heard a loud crack. She went outside and saw two people in dark clothing walking away. The victim then noticed that the front gate to her residence had been damaged and could no longer be secured.

**Jan. 16, 9:52 a.m., Diamond & Duncan, Unlicensed Driver**

**Jan. 19, 2:36 a.m., 2400 block of Castro, Trespassing:** Officers Otaguro and Baldovino were sent to investigate a trespasser. The victim told the officers that she had a party at her home and that a friend of hers brought a guest with him. When the party was over, the

friend left but his guest did not want to leave. The suspect refused to leave and was arrested by the officers.

**Jan. 25, 9:15 a.m., Valley & Dolores, Vandalism to Vehicle:** A resident reported that his vehicle's left front window was smashed. The right rear tire also was punctured.

**Jan. 25, 11:52 a.m., 700 block of San Jose Ave., Aggravated Assault/Threats:** Officers Martinez and Larocca responded to a call of a person with a knife. Their investigation revealed a dispute between a landlord and tenant that erupted when the landlord wielded a large kitchen knife at the tenant and threat-

ened to kill the tenant. The tenant was able to escape harm and called for police with the help of a passerby. The landlord was arrested.

**Jan. 25, 3 p.m., 24th & Noe, Vandalism to Vehicle:** Police Services Aide Knuckles took a counter report from a man who stated that he was approached by a white male, 25 to 35 years old, 160 pounds, wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt, as he parked his vehicle. The suspect yelled at the victim and accused him of stealing his parking spot. He then smashed his fist on the hood of the victim's vehicle, denting the hood. The suspect then ran back to his own vehicle, a silver BMW, and drove away.

**Jan. 26, 4:04 p.m., 700 block of San Jose Ave., Recovered Vehicle**

**Jan. 28, 8:51 a.m., 600 block of Duncan, Assault with Gun:** Officers Curry and Sanchez and numerous other officers responded to the report of a shooting. The victim had called 911 and said he had been shot in the head. The officers arrived, found the front door of the residence unlocked, and located the victim on the upper floor of the building. The victim had not been shot, but had been assaulted. The victim had been attacked by two people he'd recently met, over a money/property dispute. During the attack, a gun did go off, but it did not strike anyone.

**Jan. 28, 6:14 p.m., 100 block of 27th, Trespassing/Vandalism:** Officers Leong and Fung responded to the report of a burglary. The victim said she had returned home from work to find that someone had entered her home and damaged the top of her jewelry box. The victim said she had left the deadbolt of her door unlocked. There was no sign of forced entry into the building, and nothing appeared to be missing.

**Jan. 31, 1 p.m., Dolores & Day, Stolen Auto**

**Feb. 1, 9 p.m., 1800 block of Church, Vandalism to Vehicle:** Officers Lozano and McCall took a report of a vehicle with a smashed window. The suspect was seen by a neighbor, who described him as an African American male about 20 to 25 years old, wearing all black clothing.

**Feb. 2, 6:30 a.m., 100 block 27th, Theft of Bicycle:** Officer Cavanaugh took a report from a woman who stated that her bicycle was stolen from her garage overnight. The victim stated that she believed that the garage door had been left open.

**Feb. 2, 9:42 p.m., San Jose & Duncan, Traffic Accident**

**Feb. 4, 6:30 a.m., 500 block of 29th, Burglary/Theft from Vehicle:** Officer Morgante was dispatched to the report of a burglary. The victim said that he noticed that the front door to his apartment building had been damaged and forced open. The victim then saw that his vehicle, which was parked inside the building, had items missing from inside of it.

**Feb. 5, 8 a.m., 28th & Church, Stolen Auto**

**Feb. 6, 10:45 a.m., 1500 block of Dolores, Violation of Court Order/Vandalism:** Officer Coles prepared a report from a victim and a witness who stated that a man who had a restraining order against him approached the victim's home and spat on his vehicle.

**Feb. 8, 10 a.m., 100 block of 29th, Recovered Auto**

**Feb. 9, 2:56 a.m., 400 block of 27th, Firearm Turn-In:** Officer Hom and Officer Almaguer responded to the report of a battery. After interviewing everyone at the scene, the officers determined that there had been no physical fight, but rather an argument between residents. A legally owned shotgun was located at the scene, and its owner voluntarily turned the weapon over to an officer for safekeeping.



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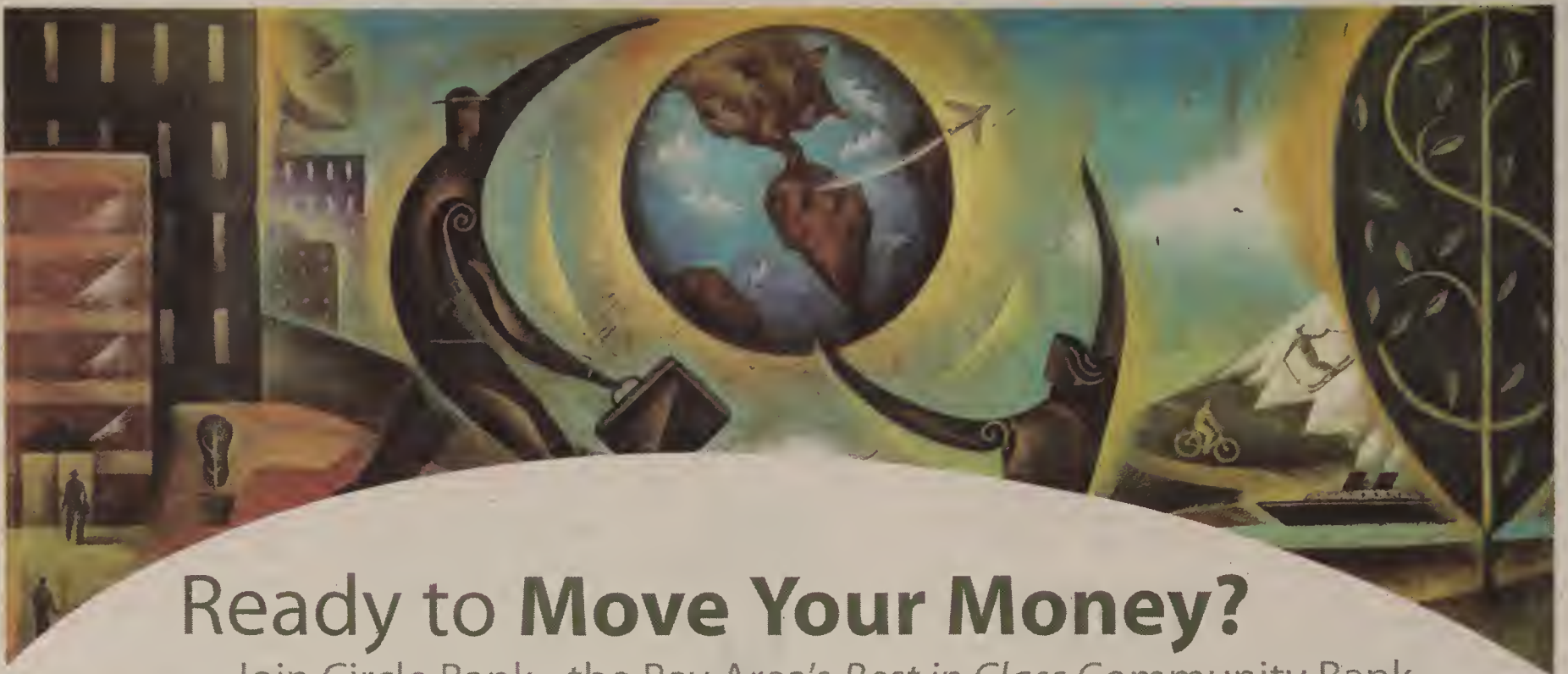
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<b>24th Street Cheese:</b> 3893 24th Street.	<b>Rainbow Grocery:</b> 1745 Folsom St.



# CALENDAR

**March 1:** Refugee expert Hazel Reitz talks about her book, *Winds of Darfur*, at 000 MONDAYS at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**March 1-31:** Cooks Boulevard offers weekly KNIFE-SHARPENING: Drop off implements by 6 pm Sunday; pick up after 11 am Tuesday. 1309 Castro. 647-2665; [www.cooksboulevard.com](http://www.cooksboulevard.com).

**March 1-31:** Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Call to reserve a spot, 648-1030.

**March 1-31:** OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mon.-Sat., 7 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**March 1-April 4:** Creativity Explored exhibits a group show to celebrate CHINESE NEW YEAR, "Tiger Leaping Gold Mountain." Mon.-Wed. & Fri., 10 am-3 pm.; Thurs., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; [www.creativity-explored.org](http://www.creativity-explored.org).

**March 2-28:** City Guide Dan Sullivan leads WALKING TOURS of the Castro on Tuesdays and Sundays. Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro & Market) under the rainbow flag. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STORY HOUR, for babies to age 4. 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

**March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, starting at 10:15 am. Family Time follows at 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**March 3, 10, 17 & 24:** Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for 0-18 months, begins at 1:30 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616.

**March 3-27:** Noe Valley artist Kristen Stolle exhibits PAINTINGS in "Anatomy of a Future Forest" at Oolby Chadwick Gallery. Reception March 4, 5:30-7:30 pm; Tues.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 11

am-5 pm. 210 Post, Suite 205. 956-3560.

**March 4, 11, 18 & 25:** PAL TIME is a class for kids 18 months to 3 years. 8:30 am. MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church. 550-PALS; [www.pal-ersize.com](http://www.pal-ersize.com).

**March 4, 11, 18 & 25:** A Thursday STROLLER WALK through the neighborhood starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am. 3872 24th. [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**March 5:** Peter Reinhart, author of *The Bread Baker's Apprentice*, discusses breakfast BREADS. 9:30 am. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**March 5:** Video Wave's Family MOVIE NIGHT screens *Anastasia*. 6 pm. Fima Photography, 1414 Castro. 641-1010 or 550-7577.

**March 5, 12, 19 & 26:** Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936. [www.doloresparkcafe.org](http://www.doloresparkcafe.org).

**March 5-26:** CLARE tells tales for kids at Cover to Cover's story hour. Fridays, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**March 5-26:** Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538

**March 6:** Attend "Solving Muni's Problems: A Fresh Discussion by Community Organizations," a WORKSHOP at the Women's Building, 3543 18th. 9 am-1 pm; registration 8:15 am. [sf.gov.org](http://sf.gov.org).

**March 6:** Robert Birnbach leads a three-hour FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY class at 18 Reasons. 9 am-noon or 1-4 pm. 593 Guerrero. [info@18reasons.org](mailto:info@18reasons.org).

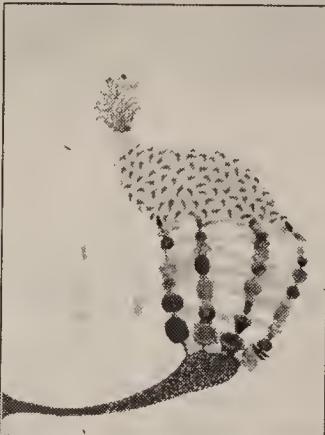
**March 6:** Join the SF Rec and Park Rec-Corps, a group of adults and youth who VOLUNTEER at festivals and parties in the city's parks. Orientation, 10:30 am-noon. Volunteer Office, 811 Stanyan. RSVP 831-6327; [marianne.kjobmand@sfgov.org](mailto:marianne.kjobmand@sfgov.org).

**March 6:** Registration begins for spring

classes at UPPER NOE Rec Center. 10 am. Upper Noe Park, 295 Oay at Sanchez. 970-8061; [sfreconline.org](http://sfreconline.org).

**March 6:** The Noe Valley Library and the Garden for the Environment host a discussion of ROOFTOP GARDENING, by sustainable garden expert Maya Oonelson. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

**March 6:** Max Watman signs *Chasing the White Dog: An Amateur Outlaw's*



"Spinaeum Propello" and other paintings by Noe Valley artist Kirsten Stolle will be exhibited March 3-27 at Dolby Chadwick Gallery on Post Street.

*Adventures in MOONSHINE*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**March 6:** Karen Ande discusses her book *Face to Face: Children of the AIDS CRISIS in Africa*. 3-4 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

**March 6:** George Cole and the Fishtank Ensemble perform "GYPSY JAZZ" to celebrate the centennial of Django Reinhardt. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [www.noevalleymusicseries.com](http://www.noevalleymusicseries.com).

**March 6, 13, 20 & 27:** Come hear Jude and Failure to Disperse (March 6); Kenny Crowley, the Rag Time Skedaddlers, and

Hannah and Sami from The She's (March 13); Mick Shaffer and Luz Gaxiola (March 20); and Kif Bender, Kailua Blue, and Peter Coward & Joel Kemps (March 27) at the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET, held Saturdays, 8 am-1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; [www.noevalley-farmersmarket.com](http://www.noevalley-farmersmarket.com).

**March 6, 13, 20 & 27:** Andrea's BELLY DANCE BOOTCAMP includes strengthening exercises. 12:30-1:30 pm. MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church. [www.andreabellydance.com](http://www.andreabellydance.com).

**March 6, 13, 20 & 27:** Craig Ventresco and Meredith Axelrod play RAGTIME and blues at the Atlas Cafe. 4-6 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047.

**March 6 & April 4:** Precita Eyes Mural Arts hosts a MURAL WALK on first Saturdays. Meet at 11 am at the 16th Street BART plaza near the Wells Fargo Bank sign. 285-2287; [www.precitaeyes.org](http://www.precitaeyes.org).

**March 7:** Mike Miller introduces his book *A Community Organizer's Tale*, an account of the coalition-building "that saved the MISSION DISTRICT from redevelopment bulldozers." 2 pm. Bird & Beckett Books, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; [www.bird-beckett.com](http://www.bird-beckett.com).

**March 7:** Ruby's Clay Studio holds an ICE CREAM SOCIAL, featuring over 100 artist-crafted bowls for sale, and a silent auction of larger bowls. 2-6 pm. 552 Noe. 558-9819; [www.rubysclaystudio.org](http://www.rubysclaystudio.org).

**March 7:** The 18th annual "Up the OSCARS Benefit Bash" takes place at the Roxie Theater starting 3:45 pm. 3117 16th. 863-1087; [www.roxie.com](http://www.roxie.com).

**March 7, 14 & 21:** Learn about MISSION DOLORES at a City Guides walk on Sundays, 11 am. Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**March 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Pianist Larry Vuckovich performs with JAZZ stars Celia Malheiros (March 7), Kay Kostopoulos (March 14), Kenny Washington

(March 21), and "Michigan Chuck" McPherson (March 28). 4:30-7:30 pm. Bliss Bar, 4026 24th. 826-6200; [www.blissbarsf.com](http://www.blissbarsf.com).

**March 7 & 21:** SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley, 1 to 3 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**March 7 & April 5:** Rocket OOG RESCUE has dogs who need you. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

**March 8:** Join Omnivore Books for a dinner with chef/author OASIS MARTINEZ at Destino Restaurant. 6 pm. 1815 Market. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**March 8:** The March RUMPUS, "Sleeping with Friends," features authors Jesse Nathan, Jami Attenberg, Mark Morford, and Gerard Jones; performers Chicken John and Nato Green; music by K. Flay; and the Girl from Empañada. 7 pm. The Makeout Room, 3229 22nd. 647-2888.

**March 8:** Atlas Café's BOOK CLUB discusses *Galileo's Daughter*, by Dava Sobel. 7-9 pm. Books, Inc. 601 Van Ness. 648-1047; [www.sciencecafesf.com](http://www.sciencecafesf.com).

**March 10:** Oickerman Prints Galley hosts a reception for the PHOTO EXHIBITION "It All Came So Close to Never Happening." 6-9 pm. 3180 17th. 252-1300; [www.dickermanprints.com](http://www.dickermanprints.com).

**March 11:** Openhouse Outreach invites LGBT SENIORS to second-Thursday meetings at 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. 296-8995.

**March 11:** Candidates for District 8 supervisor will appear at a FORUM at Alvarado Elementary School. 6-8 pm. 625 Oouglass. 695-5695.

**March 12:** *EATING HISTORY: Thirty Turning Points in the Making of American Cuisine* is the latest from Andrew Smith, author of *The Tomato in America*. 5:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).



## EVENTS MARCH 2010 ~ OMNIVORE BOOKS

**FRI MAR 5** PETER REINHART • 9:30 A.M. • FREE • The author of *The Bread Baker's Apprentice* and *Artisan Breads Every Day*, Peter will talk to us about breakfast breads.

**SAT MAR 6** MAX WATMAN • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • *Chasing the White Dog: An Amateur Outlaw's Adventures in Moonshine*. Max will discuss moonshine, & hopefully mix up some illegal drinks!

**MON MAR 8** DINNER AT DESTINO WITH DAISY MARTINEZ • 6 P.M. Celebrate Puerto Rican chef Daisy Martinez & her new book, *Daisy Morning, Noon and Night: Bringing Your Family Together with Everyday Dishes*. Details & tickets at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

**FRI MAR 12** ANDREW SMITH • 5:30 P.M. • FREE • *Eating History: Thirty Turning Points in the Making of American Cuisine*. Part of the Culinary Historians of Northern California speakers series - open to all.

**SAT MAR 13** TARA AUSTEN WEAVER • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • *The Butcher and the Vegetarian: One Woman's Romp through a World of Men, Meat, and Moral Crisis*.

**WED MAR 24** MARCIA GAGLIARDI • 6-7 P.M. • *The Tablehopper's Guide to San Francisco*. Come meet the woman behind Tablehopper, the weekly newsletter about everything foodie in the Bay Area!

**SAT MAR 27** LORNA SASS • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • Sass is the author of *Whole Grains Every Day Every Way*, *Cooking Under Pressure*, and *Lorna Sass' Complete Vegetarian Kitchen*.

**SUN MAR 28** ARTHUR ALLEN • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • *Ripe: The Search for the Perfect Tomato*. A robust tale of how tomatoes get to the table and why some don't taste very good when they get there.

**THR APR 1** EDIBLE ART CONTEST! • 6-7 P.M. • Create a dish that references art or literature (think James Joyce's "Finnegan's Cake" or Van Gogh's ear!). Free to entrants; \$5 to look, judge, and eat.

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10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Late Night Menu until 1:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday



# MARCH 2010

**March 12:** Literary DEATH MATCH features Tania Katan, Ali Liebegott, Chris Colin, and Chicken John, from 6:30 to 9 pm; Free Funk Friday at 10 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788; [www.elbo.com](http://www.elbo.com).

**March 12:** TWANG 8ANG at Café du Nord is four bands playing bluegrass, alt-bluegrass, gypsy-grass, and grunge-twang. 9 pm. 2170 Market. 861-5016; [www.shelbyashpresents.net](http://www.shelbyashpresents.net).

**March 12-April 24:** Miriam Böhm exhibits Chromogenic COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS at Ratio 3 Gallery. Reception March 12, 6-8 pm; Wed.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm. 1447 Stevenson. 821-3371; [www.ratio3.org](http://www.ratio3.org).

**March 13:** LADYBUG GARDENERS invite you to help weed and tend the park at Upper Noe Rec Center on the second Saturday of the month. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. 970-8061; [jrlion@aol.com](mailto:jrlion@aol.com).

**March 13:** RU88ER BAND BALL MAN Mike Gutierrez will bring his ball to a celebration at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, featuring Circus Finelli and the Monkey Banana Band. Noon. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332.

**March 13:** Shiv Sounds with RythEms plays MUSIC at Paxton Gate. 2-4 pm. 824 Valencia. 824-1872; [www.Paxton-Gate.com](http://www.Paxton-Gate.com).

**March 13:** Local doulas and MIDWIVES gather on second Saturdays at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; [www.naturalresources-sf.com](http://www.naturalresources-sf.com).

**March 13:** Tara Austen Weaver discusses *The Butcher and the VEGETARIAN*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**March 13:** The Men of St. Paul's Church invite you to an IRISH DINNER, plus a raffle and dancing to live music. 5:30-11 pm. Parish Hall, Church & Valley. 309-9428; [www.stpaulsf.org](http://www.stpaulsf.org).

**March 13-28:** Aaron Zonka exhibits recent oil paintings and pages from his comic-book-in-progress, "Terror Bear," at MISSION COMICS. Reception March 13, 7 pm; Tues.-Sun., noon-8 pm. 3520 20th, Suite B. [www.missioncomicsandart.com](http://www.missioncomicsandart.com).

**March 14:** Radical Women celebrate International WOMEN'S DAY with a panel discussion on public education. 1 pm snacks, 3 pm program. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278.

**March 14:** Stress management counselor/yoga therapist Jaymie Meyer offers a free MEDITATION workshop. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5626.

**March 14:** The monthly PFLAG meeting runs from 2 to 4 pm at St. Francis Lutheran Church. 152 Church. 921-8850; [www.pflagsof.org](http://www.pflagsof.org).

**March 15:** Poet Carl Macki reads from *Jan Kerouac: A Life in Memory*, a collection of photos/memoirs of Jack Kerouac's daughter, at ODD MONDAYS at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**March 15:** Noe Valley author and physician Paul Linde signs his first-person account *Danger to Self: On the Front Line with an ER PSYCHIATRIST*. 7:30 to 9 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**March 17:** Debra Sartell will sign her 800K *Go to Bed, Ted*, 11 am to noon. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**March 17:** Alcoholocaust presents a St. Paddy's Day PUNK 8ASH, featuring Undead Boys, Love Songs, Dope Charge, and The Keeners. 6 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788; [www.elbo.com](http://www.elbo.com).

**March 17:** The Noe Valley 80DK DISCUSSION Group meets on third Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**March 17:** The SF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS host *Origins of Life in the Universe: Chance or Necessity?*, a presentation by Andrew Pohorille from the NASA Ames Research Center. 7:30 pm. Randall-Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org).

**March 18:** The UPPER NOE Neighbors

group meets at 7:30 pm at the Upper Noe Rec Center. Day & Sanchez. 285-0473; [vickimrosen@gmail.com](mailto:vickimrosen@gmail.com).

**March 18:** The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7:30 pm. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414; [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org).

**March 19:** City College offers a POSTER WORKSHOP, "Women's Wisdom in Hard Times." 7-8:30 pm. Mission Campus, 1125 Valencia, Room 254. 239-3899.

**March 19:** Nell Robinson, John Reichman & the Jaybirds, and the Henriettas perform bluegrass, country, and yodeling at a CONCERT at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [www.noevalleymusicseries.com](http://www.noevalleymusicseries.com).

**March 19-21:** The Button Box has guest designers showing how to use buttons to make jewelry and clocks. Fri. & Sat., 11 am-7 pm. Sun., noon-5 pm. 642-4006. 3904 24th. 642-4006.

**March 20:** The KIDS PARTY and mini silent auction to benefit the Noe Valley Nursery School features a performance by Charity and the JAMband. 4-7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 647-2278; [www.noevalleynurseryschool.com](http://www.noevalleynurseryschool.com).

**March 20 & 27:** The PRINCESS PROJECT gives away prom dresses from 8 am to 5 pm.; bring a valid high school ID. 901 Market. [www.princessproject.org](http://www.princessproject.org).

**March 21:** The fifth annual MEATOUT CELEBRATION is sponsored by the SF Vegetarian Society. 12:15-3:30 pm. 1187 Franklin. 273-5481; [www.sfvs.org](http://www.sfvs.org).

**March 21:** Music on the Hill presents the MIRAGE ENSEMBLE performing Schubert's *Shepherd on the Rock*, French songs of Augereau by Cantaloube, and Margaret Garwood's *Six Japanese Songs*. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Goldmine. 820-1429.

**March 22:** CARA BLACK introduces her newest Aimée Leduc mystery, *Murder in the Palais Royal*. 7-9 pm. Cover to Cover,

1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**March 22:** Atlas Café hosts a discussion of EXPEDITION MEDICINE with Dr. Matt Lewin. 7-9 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047; [www.sciencecafesf.com](http://www.sciencecafesf.com).

**March 24:** Marcia Gagliardi introduces *The Tablehopper's Guide to Dining and Drinking in San Francisco* at OMNIVORE BOOKS. 6-7 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**March 25:** You're invited to meet the candidates for District 8 SUPERVISOR at an event hosted by the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30-9 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. [molly@ffsf.com](mailto:molly@ffsf.com).

**March 25:** The SPCA's 14th annual BARK & WHINE BALL benefits the shelter's Cinderella Fund. 6:30-10 pm. Herbst Pavilion at Fort Mason. 522-3564.

**March 25:** Litquake hosts an advance screening of Sarah Townsend's documentary *Believe: The EDDIE IZZARD Story*, followed by a conversation and Q&A with the star. Clay Theater, 2261 Fillmore. 267-4893; [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org).

**March 26:** The Noe Valley Music Series hosts a CONCERT by the pop folk songwriter duo Paper Raincoat, with guest Vienna Teng. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [www.noevalleymusicseries.com](http://www.noevalleymusicseries.com).

**March 27:** To celebrate WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, the SF Gray Panthers give a dramatic portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Older Women's League (DWL) screens *The Giants Wore Gloves*, about school integration in the 1950s. 10 am-noon. Flood Building, 870 N. Market, Room 975. 989-4422; [www.owlsf.com](http://www.owlsf.com).

**March 27:** Cook Lorna Sass offers recipes from her book *WHOLE GRAINS for Busy People*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**March 28:** Arthur Allen discusses *Ripe*:

*The Search for the Perfect TOMATO*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**March 28:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC at the Noe Valley Ministry features Naumberg competition winner David Requirio on cello and pianist Miles Graber performing works by Schumann, Saint-Saens, and Shostakovich. 4 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; [www.nvcm.org](http://www.nvcm.org).

**March 29:** Flick Nation website founder-DENNIS WILLIS gives a talk at the Odd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**March 30:** Laura Ackley describes "Interesting People at the Panama Pacific International Exposition," at the monthly SF HISTORY ASSOCIATION meeting. 8 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; [www.sanfranciscohistory.org](http://www.sanfranciscohistory.org).

**March 31:** Celebrate the 10th anniversary of California's CESAR E. CHAVEZ holiday with a breakfast from 8 to 10 am at Mission Language and Vocational School, 2929 19th. 621-2665; [www.cesarchavezday.org](http://www.cesarchavezday.org).

**March 31:** The Noe Valley MERCHANTS and Professionals Association welcomes newcomers to its monthly meeting. 9 am. Bank of America, 2nd Floor, 4098 24th. Robert Roddick, 641-8687.

**April 1:** The EDIBLE ART CONTEST at Omnivore Books is free to entrants, or \$5 to look, judge, and eat. 6-7 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

## SPRING INTO APRIL

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the April 2010 issue, appearing on the streets of Noe Valley the first week of April. Email calendar items by **March 15** to [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com) or write Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., S.F., CA 94114. Note: Events in Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods may receive priority. Thank you.

## LYNN Antiques & Beautiful Things

Goodbye



## CLOSING SALE Huge Discounts Begins March 3

Montana beckons and I am heading home.  
Please come by to say good-bye.  
Thank you, Noe Valley, for five wonderful years.

Lynn

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## SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

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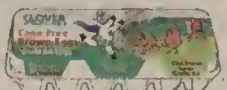


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Bulk! -reg 7.29 lb.

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Noe Valley

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Enjoy the best of Noe Valley Living in this gorgeous house-like condominium. Completed in 2007 - this home was built with meticulous attention to detail and the finest finishes: a Thermador 6 burner range in the gourmet kitchen, U-Line wine refrigerator, radiant heat and wired for sound throughout. The home has three bedrooms, three baths, a fireplace and huge, exotic Brazilian walk-out deck off of the living room. There are gorgeous hardwood floors throughout and a large garage with one car parking and ample storage for this unit. Just steps to 24th Street - this is a must see!

www.1068Sanchez.com

Carrie Buchanan Goodman 415.874.5005 | Lisa Miller 415.738.7060



Noe Valley

\$1,595,000

This sun filled, Spanish Mediterranean home, is full of 1930s charm and detail. 3 bedrooms and 3 updated bathrooms. Full-floor master suite with en-suite bathroom. Formal dining, updated kitchen with breakfast nook.

Amanda Sharp 415.738.7039



Dolores Heights

\$829,000

This top floor view flat is walking distance to 18th Street, the Valencia/Guerrero corridor, 24th Street, & the Castro. There are hardwood floors & period detail throughout.

George Limperis 415.407.3525

Levi Plaza 415.738.7000  
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## UPPER NOE VALLEY

MORE  
GAMES  
TO PLAY

## RECREATION CENTER

Race for Rec Center  
Classes Starts March 6

Noe Valley's version of the Olympics starts this week, as athletes, artists, and actors vie for spots in spring classes at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street.

Beginning March 6, at 10 a.m., residents can sign up online for free or low-cost courses ranging from badminton, tennis, and basketball clinics to tot gym, tai chi, and crocheting. As at other parks in the city, the spring session at Upper Noe runs from early March until the end of May.

To get ready to play, residents should set up a "family account" with the city's Recreation and Park Department. The accounts, which are required in order to participate in organized park activities and sports leagues, are available at [sfRecOnline.org](http://sfRecOnline.org) or in person at certain parks and locations around the city. For information about the process, go to the website or drop by the Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day Street at Sanchez Street; 970-8061. Online problems? Call 831-6800.)

Meanwhile, here's the scoop on classes offered at Upper Noe this spring. Park hours are Mondays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SPRING PROGRAM  
SCHEDULE

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department published these course descriptions Feb. 8 at [sfRecOnline.org](http://sfRecOnline.org). (The Voice did very slight edits of the listings; the numbers in parentheses are Rec and Park course numbers.) All of the activities take place at Upper Noe Recreation Center and Park. **Note:** Registration officially opens March 6, 10 a.m., for all classes except the youth tee ball and youth baseball team practices. Registration continues until classes fill up. Spring courses run from March through May.

**Adult Art—Card Creations** (15981)  
Create greeting cards of all kinds for all occasions and seasons. Create memories to last a lifetime.  
**Dates:** Sun., Fri., March 13 to May 21, 2:30-3:30 pm  
**Ages:** 18 and up  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 20  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 12

**Adult Badminton** (15901, 15902)  
Smash the birdie over the net and see if you have what it takes to play this fun sport. All levels of play are welcome to join in. All participants will be required to play doubles, unless space warrants otherwise. You may be restricted to register for only one time slot per day, depending on space availability.  
**Dates:** Wed., March 17 to May 19, 7-8 pm and 8-9 pm  
**Ages:** 18 and up  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 16

**Adult Tai Chi** (15909)  
Tai chi has a positive effect on balance, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness. These programs are sponsored by the RPD Scholarship Fund to benefit residents who qualify for financial aid.  
**Dates:** Wed., March 17 to May 19, 7-8 pm and 8-9 pm  
**Ages:** 18 and up  
**Facility:** Basketball Court  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** Free  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Adult Tennis—Beginning** (15562, 15563, 15913, 15564)  
All Recreation and Park Department beginning tennis classes cover the basics, including ground stroke, volley, and serve. Participants learn court position, etiquette, how to keep score and how to play a match. Participants must bring a tennis racquet and wear tennis shoes.  
**Dates:** Wed., March 17 to May 19, 1-2 pm and 7:30-8:30 pm  
Fri., March 19 to May 21, 11 am-noon and 1-2 pm  
**Ages:** 18 to 55  
**Facility:** Tennis Court 1  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 8

**Adult Theater** (15985, 15984)  
Learn various acting skills, scene development, character development, and storytelling. These programs are sponsored by the RPD Scholarship Fund to benefit residents who qualify for financial aid.  
**Dates:** Sun., March 14 to May 16, 9:30 am-noon  
Mon., March 15 to May 17, 6-7 pm  
**Ages:** 18 and up  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$25 (Sun.), \$10 (Mon.)  
**Spots Open:** 10

**Adult Volleyball** (15596)  
A fun team sport to get your heart beating and your legs moving!  
**Dates:** Tues., March 16 to May 18, 7-9 pm  
**Ages:** 18 and up  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$40  
**Spots Open:** 18

**Adult Workout—Women's Circuit Training** (15588, 15595)  
Circuit training with various anaerobic and aerobic exercise.  
**Dates:** Tues. & Thurs., March 16 to May 20, 11 am-12:30 pm  
Wed. & Fri., March 17 to May 21, 11 am-12:30 pm  
**Ages:** 18 and up  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 20  
**Fees:** \$60  
**Spots Open:** 12 and 15

**Adult Workout—Boot Camp** (15589, 15587)  
Boot camp and conditioning. Improve your cardiovascular fitness and increase your flexibility and muscle strength. All fitness levels are welcome.  
**Dates:** Tues., March 16 to May 18, 7-9 pm  
Thurs., March 18 to May 20, 7-9 pm  
**Ages:** 18 and up  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$40  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Family Arts** (16019)  
Be crafty and creative! Create art projects with your youngsters and prepare to inspire and be inspired. Activities may include traditional art projects or activities designed to stretch your imagination.  
**Dates:** Sat., March 13 to May 15, 11:30 am-1 pm  
**Ages:** For all ages  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 12

**Family Games** (16117)  
This is a variety of activities and events for the entire family. Come join the fun, try some new activities, and make some new friends. Sponsored by the RPD Scholarship Fund to benefit residents who qualify for financial aid.  
**Dates:** Sun., March 14 to May 16, 2-4 pm  
**Ages:** For all ages  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** Free  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Family Social Time** (15849)  
Come and do games and see movies at your local neighborhood recreation center and get to know your neighbors.  
**Dates:** Fri., March 19 to May 21, 6:30-8:30 pm

**Ages:** For all ages  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** Free  
**Spots Open:** 20

**Senior Art Expression** (16014)  
Explore jewelry-making, mixed-media collage, decoupage, paper crafts and more. Senior programs are sponsored by the RPD Scholarship Fund.  
**Dates:** Wed., March 17 to May 19, 12:30-3 pm  
**Ages:** 55 and up  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** Free  
**Spots Open:** 12

**Senior Arts—Crafts** (15983)  
Make new friends and explore your creative side in these fun classes, featuring beading and scrap crafts.  
**Dates:** Sat. & Mon., March 13 to May 17, 3:30-5 pm  
**Ages:** 55 and up  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 20  
**Fees:** Free  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Tot Gym** (15831)  
Toddlers engage in developing motor skills with the use of different apparatus, free play, and exploration.  
**Dates:** Fri., March 19 to May 21, 10-11 am  
**Ages:** 1 to 5  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$30 for 10 weeks (\$3/1.5 hours)  
**Spots Open:** 25



**Tot Playgroup** (15827)  
Basic playtime for tots to explore.  
**Dates:** Mon., March 15 to May 17, 11 am-noon  
**Ages:** 2 to 5  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 35

**Tot Space—Creative Movement and Dance** (16015, 16001, 16018)  
Children develop coordination and confidence by expressing themselves in new ways in this intro to dance, movement, and rhythm.  
**Dates:** Mon., March 15 to May 17, 4-5 pm and 5-6 pm  
Sat., March 13 to May 15, 9:30-10:30 am  
**Ages:** Children ages 3 to 4 on Mondays, 4 pm, or on Saturday. Ages 4 to 5 on Mondays, 5 pm.  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$40  
**Spots Open:** 10

**Tot Space—Mommy and Me** (15821)  
Toddlers engage in developing motor skills with the use of different apparatus, free play, and exploration.  
**Dates:** Mon., March 15 to May 17, 1-2:30 pm  
**Ages:** 6 months to 2 years  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$60  
**Spots Open:** 25

**Tot Space—Parade** (15826)  
Sing, dance, and make music. We will make instruments or props to play with as we celebrate every week.  
**Dates:** Mon., March 15 to May 17, 2-3 pm  
**Ages:** 2 to 4  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$40  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Tot Space—Shake, Twist, and Shout** (15820)  
A movement class with some music and singing.  
**Dates:** Thurs., March 18 to May 20, 10-11:30 am  
**Ages:** 3 to 5  
**Facility:** Auditorium

**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$60  
**Spots Open:** 25

**Tot Sports—Little Athletes** (15817)  
Start your child on the road to a healthy lifestyle. Bring your toddler to enjoy fun and active play while learning basic sports skills.  
**Dates:** Wed., March 17 to May 19, 2-3 pm  
**Ages:** 3 to 5  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$40  
**Spots Open:** 12

**Tot Time** (15859, 15860)  
These unique classes are designed to promote the mental and physical development of all participants. These classes may include art, music, movement, motor skill development, physical fitness, and school readiness.  
**Dates:** Tues., March 16 to May 18, 10-11:30 am  
Wed., March 17 to May 19, 10-11:30 am  
**Ages:** Tuesday class, 1 month to 4 years; Wednesday class, 8 months to 4 years  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$30 for 10 weeks (\$3/1.5 hours)  
**Spots Open:** 25

**Youth Art—Textile Arts** (15992, 15993)  
Everything done with fabrics! Learn basic stitches to make all kinds of creative projects. We will explore altering clothing, making dolls, accessories and more.  
**Dates:** Sun., March 14 to May 16, 11 am-12:30 pm  
Tues., March 16 to May 18, 3:30-5 pm  
**Ages:** 6 to 12  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 10

**Youth Art—Youth Crochet Basics** (15872)  
Learn the basics and become hooked on crochet. It's amazing what can be created with just a hook and a ball of yarn.  
**Dates:** Mon., March 15 to May 17, 6-7 pm  
**Ages:** 4 to 12  
**Facility:** Arts and Crafts Space  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 12

**Youth Art—Paper Craft Extravaganza** (15871)  
Create wonders of expression, learn the versatility of paper, and explore new skills.  
**Dates:** Thurs., March 18 to May 20, 4-5 pm  
**Ages:** 6 to 13  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 12



**Youth Baseball—Pitching/Catching Clinic** (15844)  
Learn how to improve your pitching and catching techniques. Call the recreation center for more information. Registration for this course by instructor only.  
**Dates:** Thurs., March 18 to May 20, 5:30-6:30 pm  
**Ages:** 8 to 10  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 10

**Youth Baseball—Tee Ball** (15886)  
Join your local S.F. youth baseball team. Learn and improve on your skills in hitting, fielding, and teamwork. Please contact the recreation center for more information about the team, game days, and to register for a team. Registration by coach of team only. No online or open registration.

Practices start in the first week of March.  
**Dates:** Tues., March 2 to May 25, 3:30-4:30 pm  
**Ages:** 5 to 6  
**Facility:** Baseball Diamond  
**Meetings:** 13  
**Fees:** \$30  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Youth Baseball—SFYBL Team Practices** (15830, 15877)  
Join your local S.F. youth baseball team. Learn and improve on your skills in hitting, fielding, and teamwork. Please contact the recreation center for more information about the team, game days, and to register for a team. Registration by coach of team only. No online or open registration. Practices start in the first week of March.  
**Dates:** Tues., March 2 to May 25, 4:30-5:30 pm (ages 8 to 9)  
Wed., March 3 to May 26, 3:30-4:30 pm (ages 6 to 8)  
**Ages:** 8 to 9 (Tues.) or 6 to 8 (Wed.)  
**Facility:** Baseball Diamond  
**Meetings:** 13  
**Fees:** \$30  
**Spots Open:** 14 to 15

**Youth Baseball—Fundamentals** (15841)  
Find your field of dreams. Learn basic fundamentals in offensive and defensive baseball skills in a fun recreational setting.  
**Dates:** Thurs., March 18 to May 20, 4:30-5:30 pm  
**Ages:** 7 to 10  
**Facility:** Baseball Diamond  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 10

**Youth Basketball—Fundamentals** (15897)  
Learn the many aspects of basketball including skills development, physical conditioning, game-time scenarios, and philosophy.  
**Dates:** Fri., March 19 to May 21, 3:30-4:30 pm  
**Ages:** 7 to 10  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Youth Basketball—Pee Wee Team** (15912)  
Learn new skills and practice for league games. Contact the recreation director at the site for more information and to register. Registration by coach only. No online registration.  
**Dates:** Thurs., March 18 to May 20, 3:30-6:30 pm  
**Ages:** 5 to 7  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$40  
**Spots Open:** 15

**Youth Tennis—Beginning Class for Girls** (15847)  
Recreation and Park Department beginning tennis classes cover the basics, including groundstroke, volley, and serve. Participants learn court position, etiquette, how to keep score and how to play a match. Please bring your own tennis racquet.  
**Dates:** Fri., March 19 to May 21, 4-5 pm  
**Ages:** Girls 6 to 8  
**Facility:** Tennis Court 1  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 10

**Youth Theater Explosion** (15982)  
**Dates:** Sat., March 13 to May 15, 1-3 pm  
**Ages:** 8 to 17  
**Facility:** Auditorium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$20  
**Spots Open:** 12

**Youth Volleyball—Girls** (15842)  
Learn to set, assist, and block. Approach the net and spike that ball!  
**Dates:** Wed., March 17 to May 19, 4-5:30 pm  
**Ages:** 8 to 11  
**Facility:** Gymnasium  
**Meetings:** 10  
**Fees:** \$30  
**Spots Open:** 12





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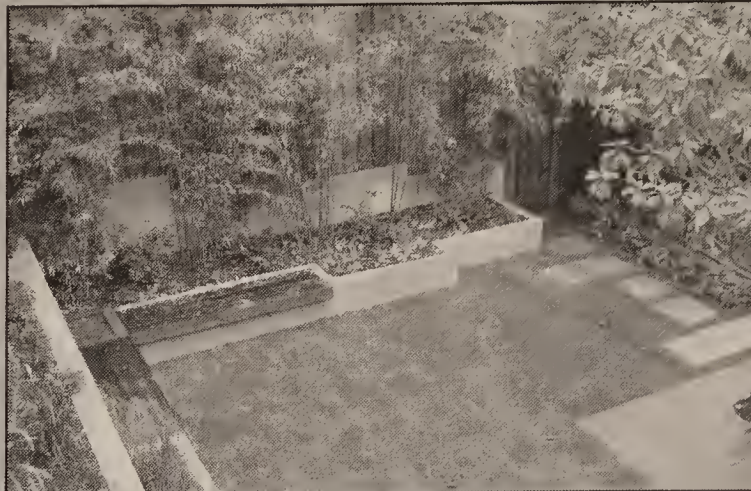
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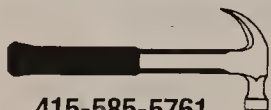
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# SHORT TAKES

## Quiz the Candidates for Supervisor

This month Noe Valleyans will have two chances to grill four of the candidates vying to replace Bevan Dufty as District 8 supervisor next year.

Attorney Rafael Mandelman, Assistant District Attorney Rebecca Prozan, SFPUC's Laura Spanjian, and Deputy City Attorney Scott Wiener will appear together Thursday, March 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Alvarado Elementary School on

## The Fests of St. Paddy

Sacred or secular, local residents have a variety of options to help the Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day, with humble food, live music, and, of course, green beer.

St. Philip's Church gets an early start on the official March 17 celebration. The church will host a dinner dance March 6 at the parish hall of the church, at 725 Diamond Street.

Chairwoman Margaret McAuliffe says the meal will include corned beef and cabbage for adults, and hot dogs and chicken nuggets for kids. The Frank Rooney Trio will play traditional Irish music.

About 100 people are expected for the festivities, which start at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$10 for children 10 years old and under. For reservations, call McAuliffe at 415-334-7212 or the rectory at 415-282-0141.

A week later, on March 13, the Men of St. Paul's Catholic Church will dish up corned beef and cabbage, along with soda bread and dessert, at the church's own special dinner. Dancing and live Irish music are also on the bill for the 150 guests expected to attend.

"It's not a fundraiser—more of a fun-raiser," says St. Paul's pastor, Mario Farana. "It's a get-together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a nice way with families."

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with drinks at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Adults pay \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door; children's tickets are \$5 and \$7. The event will be held in the parish hall at St. Paul's, at Church and Valley streets. For more information, call 415-641-4829.

On the big day itself, Wednesday, March 17, everyone becomes Irish at Noe Valley's local taverns, where patrons are invited to partake of Irish stew.

The Dubliner at 3838 24th Street and its sister bar, the Valley Tavern at 4054 24th Street, will provide corned beef and potato salad throughout the day. Owner Vince Hogan hopes to hear bagpipers on 24th Street starting around 7 p.m.

At Noe's Bar at the corner of 24th and Church streets, the usual corned beef and cabbage will be complemented this year by potatoes and carrots. The Irish repast will be served "from noon until we run out," says Noe's manager Nancy Emery. Noe's is also where you'll find the green beer.

O'Greenberg's will dish up plates of cabbage and potatoes, too. The feasting starts at 11 a.m. at the bar, 1600 Dolores Street at 29th Street.

—Corrie M. Anders

Douglass between 22nd and 23rd streets. The event, hosted by the school's PTA, is open to all.

"I expect there will be a lot of questions about education, but it's an open discussion," says Todd David, the Alvarado father who organized the forum.

On Thursday, March 25, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., the quartet will be at St. Philip's Church on Diamond between Elizabeth and 24th streets at a forum hosted by the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

The four appeared together last October in a candidates forum hosted by Upper Noe Neighbors, and they have been seen in various combinations at neighborhood association meetings and events throughout the district. There are three other, less-known candidates in the race—exotic dancer Starchild, Diamond Heights resident William Hemenger, and James Boeger, a therapist—though they had not yet been scheduled to debate at the March forums.

The election will be held Nov. 2, with the winner ascending to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in January 2011. District 8 encompasses more than a dozen city neighborhoods, including Noe Valley, Glen Park, Diamond Heights, and the Castro District.

## Nursery School Goes Out with a Band

The Noe Valley Nursery School's annual fundraiser on Saturday, March 20, will be less about bidding and more about bringing together the school community for what might be its last big party as the co-op struggles to find a new location.

The fundraiser takes place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, where the preschool has operated for the past 40 years. However, the Ministry plans to close next November for major renovations, and the preschool must find a new home.

"If we can't find a new location, we have to close down," says auction committee member Trudi Spork. "If that happens, this is our last party."

Though the preschool has a couple of leads on locations, nothing had been settled as of press time.

Organizers still hope to raise about \$11,000—comparable to the \$12,000 raised last year—but the event itself is smaller, in part because so many parents are working on finding a new location for the school.

"We'll be happy just to make the cost

of the party," Spork says, estimating that to be about \$5,000. Anything above that could help pay for bringing a new location up to code for a preschool.

Spork describes the event, which runs from 4 to 7 p.m., as a kids party with a mini silent auction. The families at the school come from many different cultures, which, along with the timing of the 2010 Olympics, put an international twist on this year's festivities. The children will decorate the school with flags of various countries, and the parents will bring food that represents their ethnic backgrounds.

Spork, who is from Australia, plans to bring lamb sausage rolls and lamingtons (a kind of cake) to set alongside Chinese spring rolls and macaroni and cheese.

There will be items to bid on, but the focus will be on carnival games for the kids, like "fishing" with magnets and a beanbag toss. There will be face-painting and movies as well.

At 5:30 p.m., Charity and the JAM-band, of *Rock Your Socks Off* fame, will take the stage.

"We haven't had the band before, so we're hoping that will draw people," says Spork.

You can buy a ticket online at [www.noevalleynurseryschool.com](http://www.noevalleynurseryschool.com) for \$15. Tickets at the door cost \$20. Children's tickets are \$5. An \$8 open-bar ticket is also

## Noe Valley Celebrates the Book

Mindy Kershner of Friends of Noe Valley is pleased to announce the latest edition of Noe Valley's annual literary fest:

Once again the Friends of Noe Valley and our neighborhood booksellers are planning a wonderful week of events for our annual Noe Valley Celebrates the Book. Now in its fourth year, the week highlights our pride in having four independent bookstores in our midst. Each will host literary events and invite the neighborhood to get up close and personal with authors while enjoying the fellowship of neighbors.

This year's offerings kick off on Saturday, April 10, at Omnivore Books on Church Street with famed restaurateur Alice Waters signing her new book *In the Green Kitchen* from 3 to 4 p.m. Then Wednesday evening, April 14, from 7 to 9 p.m., join friends at Cover to Cover on Castro Street for another exciting program (to be announced soon).

Thursday evening, April 15, rejoice that your taxes are in the mail at a soirée at Phoenix Books on 24th Street, and make another date to meet Friday, April 16, at 7 p.m. at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore on 24th near Diamond.

We end the celebration back at Omnivore on Sunday, April 18, 3 to 4 p.m., with author Rose Levy Beranbaum, who will showcase her new book *Rose's Heavenly Cakes*.

More details will be forthcoming, but save the dates in mid-April to savor the offerings of your neighborhood bookstores.

available. For information, call the school at 415-647-2278.

## How to Be Green, Mellow, and Smart

The San Francisco Library is offering free peace of mind this spring, from meditation and rooftop gardening to a workshop for seniors on how to avoid scams.

The quietude starts Saturday, March 6, at 2 p.m., when garden designer Maya Donelson leads a workshop on rooftop gardening at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library, 451 Jersey Street. Donelson, who is an expert in sustainable and edible gardens, will start with pictures of roof gardens from around the world before talking about the environmental and health benefits of growing.

She will spend the rest of the hour introducing methods for planting your own rooftop garden, including a demonstration on how to build a self-watering container for plants.

On Sunday, March 14, Jaymie Meyer will lead a free "Resilience for Life—Breathing and Meditation Workshop" from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley branch. In addition to showing techniques for gentle breathing and relaxation, Meyer will discuss the health benefits of meditation, particularly as an antidote to stress.

"Breathing and meditation practices reduce stress, strengthen the immune system, calm and steady the mind, and are scientifically proven to benefit a variety of conditions," says Meyer, a certified stress management counselor, yoga therapist, and reiki master.

Seniors might breathe easier after attending a seminar on scams aimed at the elderly, on Thursday, April 8, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This free event takes place at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street.

John O'Grady, who practices trust and estate planning law and volunteers for the State Bar of California, and Mikael Wagner, a consumer advocate from the nonprofit Consumer Action, will identify a variety of common scams, offer advice for fighting back, and answer questions from the audience.

The seminar is part of the Senior Scams program organized by the library's Business, Science, and Technology Center, and is held in connection with the San Francisco Library's Wise Up series.

For more information on these and other library events, go to [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

This month's Short Takes were written by Heather World.

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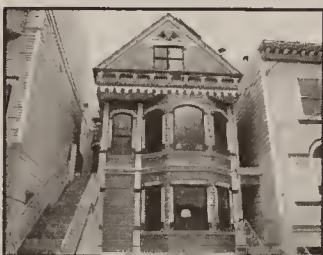
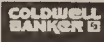


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**Reading for All the Write Reasons.** Here's Philip Gerrie looking very continental during his recent stay in Venice. We'd take him for a local except the journal he's holding is a mainland USA edition. So it's most likely that he's a Noe Valleyan who tucked the paper in with his carry-on. You should too.



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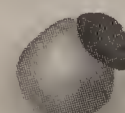
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## STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a recent arrival on 24th Street.

### CARDIO-TONE

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Cardio-Tone, the newest exercise kid on the block, flexes its muscles with a few twists. Located in the former Cary Lane clothing boutique on 24th near Church, the fitness studio teaches some classes for free, offers childcare for parents who work out or hang out, and hosts a monthly Girls Night Out.

Rachel Aram, a certified personal trainer, opened Cardio-Tone on Jan. 2, because "I wanted a business that made it easy for people. We have a flexible schedule and good childcare. My goal is to remove the reasons people can't exercise. Everyone wants to be healthy, but no one can drive across town or hire a sitter for a one-hour class."

A Dolores Street resident, Aram also wanted to get to know her neighbors.

"I spent my mom life on 24th Street," says the mother of two under 2. "It felt like there were a lot of things to do in the neighborhood. But there wasn't a way to connect with other mothers and families."

Expectant moms, new moms, non-moms, dads, children... in fact, any kind of customer can select from 17 types of classes and workshops, meeting 90 different times a week. Exercisers work out on hardwood floors in a high-ceilinged space painted a soothing blue. The studio also has a "goals wall," where people can hang up their jeans or other clothes they hope to wear after weight loss. In the popular Spin class (group cycling on stationary bikes), some cyclers pedal in front



Owner Rachel Aram and studio manager Tara Lihn (right) invite you to take a spin on the cycling equipment at Cardio-Tone, a fitness and childcare center on 24th Street.

of their own garments, to keep their eyes on the prize, Aram says.

Beyond the studio are a series of smaller rooms: a hand-me-down closet offering free children's clothes; dressing rooms; a baby room with rocking chair and crib, used for calming a child or breastfeeding; and a brightly colored playroom complete with skylight and rubber floor.

In the play space, the childcare service

Wondersitter is available to provide on-site childcare from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Parents or caregivers pay \$6 per hour (for up to two hours of childcare) if they stay at Cardio-Tone, or \$10 if they leave the kids at the studio.

The day's workouts start at the crack of dawn. "Fitness has always been a hobby job," says Aram, who teaches most of the Spin and Pump (basic cardio and strength-training) classes, as well as a

6 a.m. Boot Camp. Aram says a former job as a CBS news journalist honed her ability "to function well at 5 a.m."

To balance out the aerobics, the studio offers a ballet-based class called Tone, yoga classes, massage services, and a class called Baby Weight, for postpartum exercise (with or without Baby).

For children, there are an array of classes whose names tell it all: Hip-Hop, Hula, Jump!, Making Music, Angelina Ballerina, Messy Art, and Free-Range Kids.

Princess 101, a favorite of the preschool set, is a "storybook dance class" based on fairy tales. The instructor, Cardio-Tone's studio manager, dancer, and former princess at Disneyland Tara Lihn, promises to show kids 3 and older "how to wake up properly if you fall into a deep sleep," as Sleeping Beauty did.

Prices are \$10 for a single kids class and \$15 for an adult one, but there are discounts for classes by the month or longer.

Every afternoon from 3:30 to 5 p.m., Cardio-Tone hosts a free playgroup for children 2 and under (with caregiver). Another freebie is the spin class offered on Saturday mornings (7:30 a.m.) for participants in the AIDS/LifeCycle Ride from San Francisco to L.A. in June.

Cardio-Tone also has fun without sweating. In March, the studio will host a free beer-tasting event showcasing local "hobby" brewers. (Check the website for details: [www.cardio-tone.com](http://www.cardio-tone.com).)

As for the Girls Night Out, it rolls around on the third Saturday of each month. The March 20 Girls Night Out (\$30 per person) begins at 6 p.m. with an hourlong Latin dance lesson, followed by an evening out on the town.

Cardio-Tone is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Karen Topakian



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**Helping Hands for Haiti.** These Noe Valley kids aren't tired of lending their spirits to a good cause. From left Dalilah and Violet Buffalo teamed up with Eliza and Olivia Baker to staff the bake sale table on 24th St. in February.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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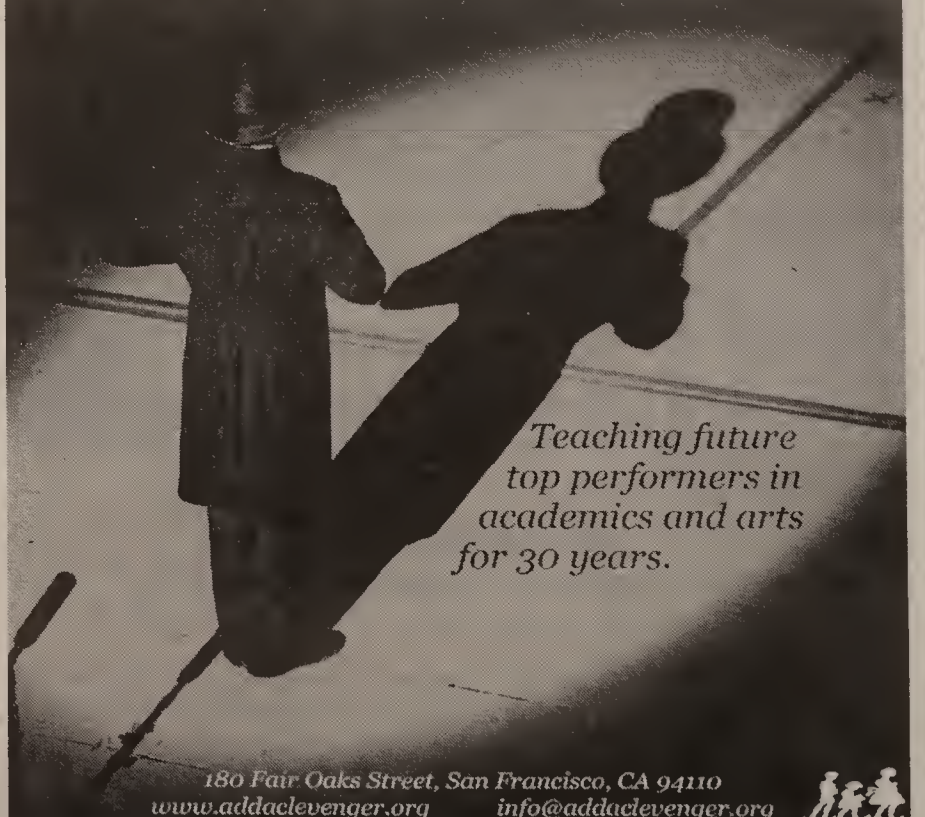
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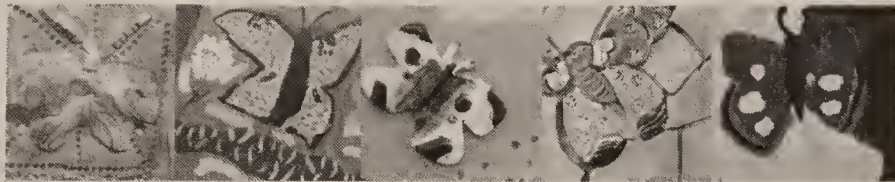
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# SCHOOL REPORT

*El boletín escolar de este mes viene de la Escuela Fairmount, donde cada día se habla y escribe español e inglés y probablemente otros idiomas.* This month's School Report comes from Fairmount School, where Spanish and English (and probably a few other languages) are spoken and read every day.

## Spanish and English Share Equal Time

By Tara Duggan

You may not know it, but Noe Valley is becoming a hotbed for Spanish language learning. Two nearby public elementary schools, Fairmount and Alvarado, offer two-way Spanish-immersion programs, and James Lick Middle School is one of the few middle schools in the district to carry on the same program.

Unlike most schools with dual immersion programs, Fairmount Elementary is in the process of converting all of its classrooms, other than special education, to Spanish immersion. As of next year, all three classrooms in grades kindergarten to 3 will be part of the program, and the few remaining English-only classes in grades 4 and 5 will phase out in the following two years.

This shift reflects the increasing popularity of dual immersion programs in the district, of which there are 20, including classes in Korean and Mandarin. In this

educational model, the majority of instruction, from social studies to math, is taught in the second language. Ideally, classrooms are composed of half English speakers and half native speakers of the second language. The goal is for them to emerge not just bilingual but biliterate—able to speak, read, and write fluently in both English and the second language.

"Dual immersion is more than just an opportunity," says Mary Lou Cranna, principal at Fairmount on Chenery Street. "It serves dual purposes. The model is intended to help English-language learners, but English speakers benefit as well."

Here's how it works at Fairmount: In kindergarten, 90 percent of instruction is in Spanish and 10 percent is in English. With each year, the amount of English instruction increases, to roughly 20 percent in first grade, 30 percent in second, and so on, until fifth grade, when English and Spanish instruction time are equal.

Neither children nor their parents need to have knowledge of the second language to succeed, but Fairmount offers programs and events that reinforce literacy and support cultural understanding. The school has an English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), a group for Spanish-speaking parents, and adult English and Spanish classes have been offered on campus.

The school year starts off with Baile Familiar, an all-ages dance party under the stars with salsa classes, hot chocolate, and pan dulce.

"We wanted to have something more cultural—an event that was a fundraiser but that would reflect our traditions," says Gaby Marin, president of the board at ELAC and vice president of the Parent Teacher Association. "In Mexico, especially, they do have these bailes in the plaza. The whole family participates.



Fairmount's biggest fundraiser, FiestaVal, is three months away, but school parents and kids are busy planning the May 8 event.

Here in the States, kids don't go out to dance; adults just go to nightclubs."

Next month, the school will host its annual Pijamada, or Pijama Party, an evening when children get to go to school in their pajamas and read books in a magical setting of tents and sparkling lights, while their parents take classes on how to encourage literacy at home.

"The goal is to educate the parents and to reinforce nighttime routines that support literacy and learning. Making good nighttime habits helps kids have a good day of learning," says Marin.

The school's biggest community builder and fundraiser is FiestaVal, which is coming up on May 8 from noon to 4 p.m. This free festival includes performances from local artists, games, and an auction with great donations from local restaurants and other businesses, all open to the community. The food draws from the school's rich Latin-American culinary heritage, with homemade dishes ranging from Yucatecan cochinita pibil to Oaxacan mole.

Fairmount community is actively looking for donations from local businesses for FiestaVal, which will support the PTA's funding of crucial programs such as the school library, science, and the

ever-popular capoeira classes from Abada Capoeira in the Mission. This Brazilian form of martial arts and dance is fun and great exercise. Abada has the added benefit of an instructor who teaches in Spanish—with the occasional word of Portuguese, of course.

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**Castro Area Planning + Action**

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
Email: [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Castro Farmers' Market**

Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m., on Noe between Market and Beaver  
Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; [www.CastroMerchants.com](http://www.CastroMerchants.com)

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Email: [dhic123@gmail.com](mailto:dhic123@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://www.doloresheights.org)  
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;  
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or  
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**

Contact: Scott Wiener, 437-9414  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St. (upstairs); 7:30 p.m.  
Website: [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org)

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362  
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Gregg Brooks  
Email: [sflyric@yahoo.com](mailto:sflyric@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Email for details.

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**

Contact: Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122  
<http://friendsofbillygoathill.blogspot.com>

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774  
Email: [emerr@earthlink.net](mailto:emerr@earthlink.net)  
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Email for information.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

Contact: Laura Norman  
Email: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: Email for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

Contact: Richard May, 298-2344  
Website: [www.friendsofnoevalley.com](http://www.friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: Occasional (call to confirm); at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

**Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center**

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park**

Contact: Alexandra Torre  
Email: [noe\\_park@atorre.com](mailto:noe_park@atorre.com)  
Website: [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com)  
Meetings: Email or check website.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group**

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310  
Email: [kendall@microcounsel.com](mailto:kendall@microcounsel.com)  
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.  
Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a screenwriting course.

**Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"**

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**Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District**

Contact: Debra Niemann, [nemo@rcn.com](mailto:nemo@rcn.com)  
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.  
Also see [www.noevalleyassociation.org](http://www.noevalleyassociation.org).

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838  
Meetings: Third Wednesday, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m.  
Parking available in lot off Elizabeth. Call to confirm meeting dates.

**Noe Valley Farmers' Market**

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez.  
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
Mailing Address: 4101 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

**Noe Valley Library Campaign**

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, [kkdrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kkdrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103  
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of February, March, April, May, July, October & November, at Bank of America, Second Floor; 9 a.m. September breakfast, call for details.  
Website: [www.No ValleyMerchants.com](http://www.No ValleyMerchants.com)

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents  
Contact: Mina Kenvin  
Email: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Preparedness Committee**

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536  
Email: [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com)  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
Email: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Website: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Meetings: See website.

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**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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# MORE BOOKS TO READ

## What Mother Nature Recommends

By Noe Valley Adult Services Librarian  
Susan Higgins

Spring is almost here, and for many it's time to go outside and explore. If you're interested in outdoor pursuits, the library has lots of books to help you commune with nature or give you ideas for interesting places to spend a day or a weekend. Here's a sampling:

For Adults and Teens

### Field Guides

■ **The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America** by David Allen Sibley is a portable, regional edition of the popular birding guide. Includes descriptions, illustrations and range maps.

■ **National Geographic Birding Essentials** by Jonathan Alderfer provides "all the tools, techniques, and tips you need to begin and become a better birder."

■ Written for both experienced and novice butterfly watchers, Arthur Shapiro's **Field Guide to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions** discusses more than 130 species and features full-color plates.

### Gardening

■ In **Wildly Successful Plants: Northern California**, Pam Peirce identifies a wide variety of easy-to-grow plants that create beautiful gardens. For novice and experienced gardeners.

■ The richly illustrated **Garden Your Way to Health and Fitness**, by Bunny Guinness and Jacqueline Knox, shows design ideas for "healthy" gardens, as well as exercises that prepare the body for gardening.

### Hiking

■ **Best Hikes Near San Francisco** by Linda Hamilton offers descriptions and maps of hikes within an hour's drive of the city.

■ **Sixty Hikes Within 60 Miles of San Francisco** by Jane Huber covers easy and more strenuous hikes in nine Bay Area counties, including Marin, Napa, Contra Costa, and San Mateo.

### Local Travel

■ **The Cafes of San Francisco: A Guide to the Sights, Sounds, and Tastes of America's Original Cafe Society**, by A.K. Crump et al. is an illustrated tour of some of the best cafes in the area.

■ **Frommer's San Francisco: Free and Dirt Cheap**, by Matthew Richard Poole, explores events, attractions, entertainment, shopping, and classes.

For Children

### Picture Stories for Younger Children

■ In **Mother Earth and Her Children: A Quilted Fairy Tale**, by Sibylle von Olfers, simple rhymes tell how Mother Earth's children awaken to experience new life and the color and joy of spring.

■ A fox wanders through the woods and discovers the colors and sounds of spring in **Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms** by Julia Rawlinson.

■ Sarah Wilson's **Friends and Pals and Brothers, Too** features two brothers who describe their favorite activities throughout the seasons. "In spring we bring out hats and hats. We look for frogs, we pet strange cats."

Nature Guides for Older Children

■ **Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area**, by Chris Fisher et al. is a useful guide for identifying birds in your back yard or at the park.

■ **National Audubon Society First Field Guide: Rocks and Minerals**, by Edward Ricciuti and Margaret Carruthers, contains full-color spreads and covers more than 150 minerals.

■ Ron Russo's guide to organisms living in rocky reefs and tide pools along the Pacific Coast, **Pacific Intertidal Life**, explores creatures and algae from Alaska to Baja California.

To put your name on one of these books, go to [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) and make a reservation. Or better yet, take a stroll to the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street (phone: 415-355-5707). Enjoy the fresh air.

## LIBRARY EVENTS

### Tuesday Toddler Tales

■ Toddlers 18 to 36 months (and their caregivers) are invited to come hear rhymes, music, and stories at the Tuesday morning **Toddler Tales** sponsored by the Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey Street. The events are March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

### Family Story Time

■ Kids ages 5 and younger will enjoy the library's reading-aloud program, **Family Story Time**, which follows Toddler Tales on Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 23 & 30, from 11 to 11:30 a.m. On Tuesday, March 16, the library will show films for children from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

### Lettuce Go up on the Roof

■ Sustainable garden expert Maya Donelson, in partnership with Garden for the Environment, holds a **Rooftop Gardening** workshop Saturday, March 6, 2 to 3 p.m. The free event will explore a variety of garden layouts and show how to build a self-watering container for food-producing plants.

### A Quiet Place for Meditation

■ On Sunday, March 14, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Jaymie Meyer will lead a free workshop on **Breathing and Meditation** techniques, "Resilience for Life." A certified Ayurveda health educator, stress management counselor, and reiki master, Meyer will show how the practice of meditation can relieve stress as well as strengthen the immune system and calm the mind.

### Noe Valley Book Group

■ The Noe Valley **Book Discussion Group** gathers on Wednesday, March 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the meeting room of the library at 451 Jersey Street. All are invited.

All events take place at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street; 415-355-5707.

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## Need Help with Homework? Click on the Library

The San Francisco Library subscribes to a variety of online databases that you or your kids can use from your home computer. These are great resources for homework assignments, projects, and finding answers to questions. And they're available free. All you need to get started is your library card number and PIN.

### Kids InfoBits: Articles, News, and Photos for Younger Children

■ Go to [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org)

■ Click on the link to **Articles and Databases**

■ Scroll down the list of categories and click on the **Student Resources** link. You will see a list of databases.

■ **Kids InfoBits** is a general reference database for children in kindergarten through Grade 5. After you click on the link to Kids InfoBits, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN.

Kids InfoBits contains information from a variety of reference sources, including articles from magazines and newspapers. You can search for information using key words or by clicking on graphics for 12 broad subject areas, such as "animals" or "geography." Articles contain symbols that indicate which items are easier or more difficult to read.

### For Older Kids

For older children, the **Student Resource Center** covers a wide range of topics. Resources include primary documents, biographies, topical essays, critical analyses, magazines, newspapers, photographs and illustrations, and audio and video clips. The **Biography Resource Center** is an excellent supplement to the biographical books at the library and contains biographies of more than 380,000 people.

**Science Online** contains definitions, essays, diagrams, biographies, and experiments covering many scientific topics. And you can browse the **Encyclopedias and Dictionaries** category to find a wide range of reference sources that are useful for homework assignments and projects.

These are just a few of the many useful databases that you can explore in the Articles and Databases area of [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

—Susan Higgins

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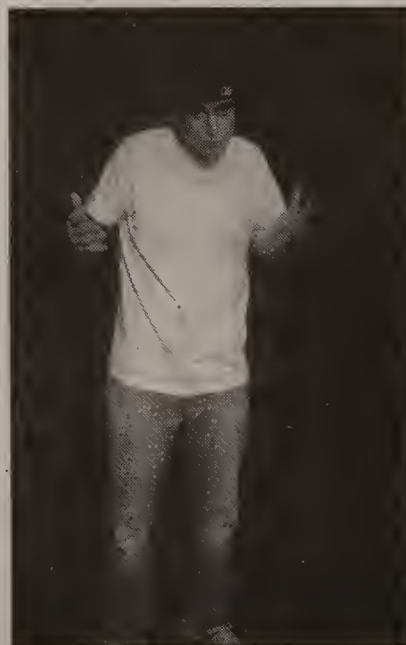
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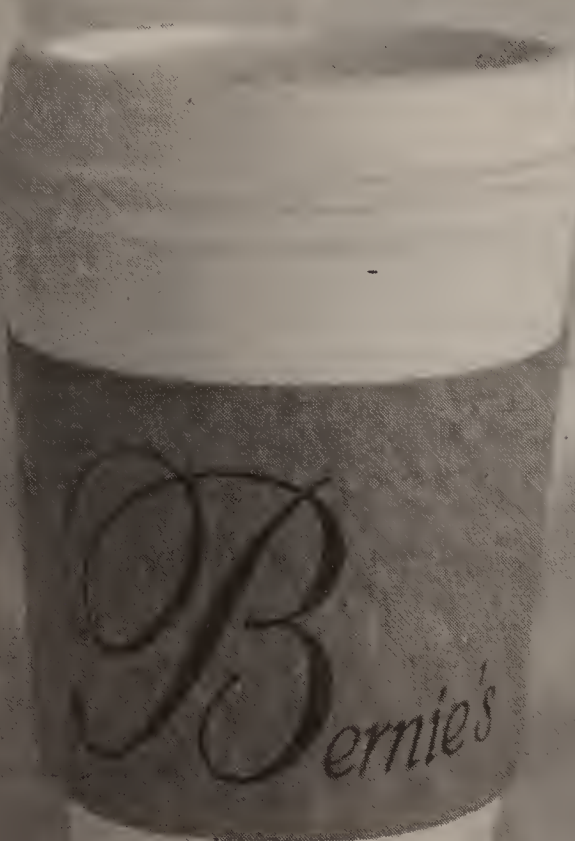
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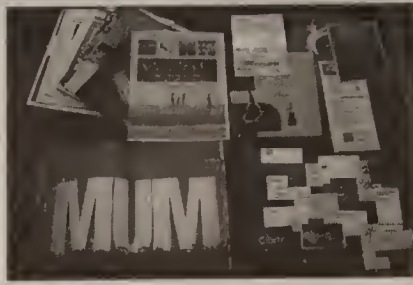
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Destination: Noe Valley

By Mazook

**E**ATERIES, MORE OR LESS: More than 100 people showed up at St. Philip's Church the night of Thursday, Feb. 25, for a sizzling community meeting sponsored by the Friends of Noe Valley, Upper Noe Neighbors, Noe Valley Merchants Association, Noe Valley Association, and the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

First on the fun-filled agenda, which was chaired by District 8 Supe Bevan Dufty, was a greeting by Mission Police Station Capt. Greg Corrales. Then came a debate about new restaurants, and a report by Noe Valley Association director Debra Niemann. After that, the five major candidates in the November election for Dufty's seat on the Board of Supervisors introduced themselves to the crowd. Finally, there was a surprise presentation by the Planning Department's Andres Power about plans to create a "park plaza" in Downtown Noe Valley. But we'll get to that later.

Corrales reintroduced himself—he's been Mission captain in the past—and thanked our local beat officer (and last month's *Noe Valley Voice* cover girl) Lorraine Lombardo for her service. She was given a loud ovation for her efforts as chief constable of the neighborhood.

The main attraction, of course, was Dufty's pending legislation that would lift the ban on new restaurants and food-service businesses on 24th Street (and adjoin-

ing commercial blocks), subject to conditional use (CU) authorization. To Dufty's way of thinking, the measure would give worthy restaurants and/or specialty food services the chance to open in DNV, which would stimulate the neighborhood economy and bring more diners and shoppers to our little urban village. He feels lifting the ban still leaves sufficient controls, because the CU process is pretty strict.

Dufty was joined by City Planner Elizabeth Watty, who explained the rigors of obtaining a CU permit and the standards used by the Planning Department. "[This legislation] doesn't make the process any easier," said Watty, "and the Planning Commission would deal with every application on a case-by-case basis," to determine if the proposed CU would be "necessary and desirable."

Others on the pro side said lifting the ban would allow a "free market" to determine what restaurants would make it in Downtown Noe Valley. But opponents—many of whom lived on 24th, Jersey, or Elizabeth streets—cited concerns about increased traffic congestion, parking, noise, and odor pollution.

Dufty called upon longtime neighborhood activist and 24th Street resident Eleanore Gerhardt, who had been leading the opposition to the repeal of the prohibition. Gerhardt brought copies of two *Noe Valley Voice* articles from 1979, which explained the thinking at that time: people wanted to preserve Noe Valley's mixed-use, services-oriented shopping street, which already had a lot of bars, takeouts, and restaurants, and stop the displacement of residents and apartments by landlords eager to rent to commercial enterprises. Gerhardt also explained how Starbucks was able to sidestep the moratorium on cafes, when the coffee store opened in 1993. (Prior to moving in, Starbucks successfully lobbied the city to al-

low an "accessory takeout" exception in the zoning code.)

Dufty then opened the meeting up for questions and comments. Many short comments expressed support for the repeal. Many speakers against repeal recalled past problems in the neighborhood.

Jersey Street residents reminded everyone of the huge problems they had with the noise pollution and meat smells wafting from Hahn's Hibachi when it first opened in 1996. The complaints led to a three-year permit battle, resulting in the owners installing a very expensive "Smog-Hog," which reduced the odors to a tolerable level.

Other Jersey residents talked about similar problems they were now having with the very popular Fresca Restaurant. Evidently, the noise has been so disruptive that one resident moved his bedroom from the back of his house to the front so he could get some sleep.

After about an hour of discussion, Dufty called for a "straw vote." According to Dufty's chief of staff, Boe Hayward, the vote was "a little better than two-to-one in favor of repealing the ban."

Agents of the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation estimated the four-second show of hands was 70 percent for repeal, 30 percent against.



**PLAZA-BILITY:** After the vote, the meeting was turned over to Noe Valley Association director Debra Niemann, who gave a PowerPoint talk about the 24th Street community benefit district's recent activities.

Then the surprise came: an announcement that an application the NVA made last year to Mayor Gavin Newsom's "Pavement to Parks" program had been approved, and that by the summer solstice, Noe Valley would have a park plaza on Noe Street, on the south side of 24th

Street.

You might recall that one of these foliage-filled pedestrian areas opened late last year in Eureka Valley, on the block where 17th, Castro, and Market merge.

The Noe Street plaza, of course, was breaking news, well, almost breaking, since the *San Francisco Chronicle* that very morning had published a front-page story about Pavement to Parks which noted that Noe Valley would be one of four neighborhoods slated for a mini plaza.

Andres Power, the Planning Department person who is heading up Pavement to Parks, then spoke to those assembled. The plan is to set up a temporary barricade on Noe at a point approximately 60 feet from the southern edge of 24th Street—roughly at the end of Starbucks and Rabat—and create a small plaza in that space with benches, plants, and an open area for relaxation (sans cars).

"We are starting out with temporary barricades, and Noe Street will become a cul-de-sac for the residents on the south side of that block. We have the funding now, so we will be having community meetings in the near future for input and hope to have a temporary plaza opened by June 2010," Power said.

If you're wondering, only emergency vehicles will be allowed in the cul de sac. And you'll have to find another route to drive across 24th Street.

If you want to give your input before the next community meeting, contact Power by phone, 415-558-6384, or at [Andres.power@sfgov.org](mailto:Andres.power@sfgov.org).



**GEEK SQUADS** invaded Noe Valley on the first Saturday evening of February (Feb. 6). Almost 300 people formed 53 teams, whose members converged on Alvarado School to participate in the "Inau-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## CASA MEXICANA

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

augural Tech Search Party," a high-tech scavenger hunt organized by Tim Smith, who serves on the school PTA's technology committee.

The event was planned as a \$15,000 fundraiser for the school, with proceeds earmarked for purchasing a working computer for every classroom in the school (see "Short Takes" in last month's *Voice*).

Prizes were promised to the top teams in the competition and to the team with the best name. Every team would need a flashlight and at least one very "smart phone," so they could check the Internet for help with the clues during the hunt, then take a photo of their answer, and email it back to hunt headquarters.

The entry fee was 50 bucks, and the start time was 6 p.m. Each team was given a map and 10 clues to decipher, and two hours to find the answers at locations in Noe Valley. Here are the 10 clues (answers at the end of the column):

1. Between Lodge and London.
2. AKA Hugs and Kisses.
3. Where 11 Dwell.
4. Fox Then Sheen.
5. 1:3.226.
6. Home of St. Barack.
7. The Gospel According to Goldberg.
8. Credit Card Fee Limitation and Accountability Act and Temple Street.
9. Cost \$45,499 in Year of Beverly Cleary's Birth.
10. Noe Valley's Last Movie Theater.

During the race, Smith says, "I tweeted a couple clues for clarification to all the teams." After 8 p.m., everyone congregated at the Dubliner Bar for a free beer and the awards ceremony.

First prize went to a team called the Indomitable Immersion Mamas, who, according to Smith, were a group of five Alvarado moms. They had phoned him "a couple days before the hunt wanting to know if they had to have a 'smart' phone to participate in the hunt." The answer was "yes."

The Mamas' prize was a party pack from Radio Alice, including two tickets to a Bon Jovi concert. Second prize was a \$100 gift certificate to Geeknet, and it was awarded to team 26 Skidoo. Third place went to Noe Way Jose, and fourth to team 2+2=5. The best team name award went to Getting to the Dubliner Has Never Been This Hard.

The best PR team was the ScaVantagers from Vantage Communications, "who edged out the Bite PR team, who unwisely stopped in the middle of the hunt to get pizza," Smith said. And for the record, the best political team was supe candidate Scott Wiener's team, and the prize was a baseball autographed by Mayor Newsom.

Smith says a shout-out should go to all the corporate sponsors of the event: Google, Geeknet, Salesforce, and Circle Bank, as well as to supervisor candidates Mandelman, Prozan, Spanjian, and Wiener.

And most importantly, Smith says, over \$12,000 was raised for purchase of audiovisual equipment and a flat-panel computer for each of the 28 Alvarado classrooms.

☎ ☎ ☎

**GOT ART ACADEMY?** A great new and très Noe neighborhood service opened in December on the corner of Diamond and Elizabeth streets: Pixie Hall Studios. The place offers a bevy of art classes for children ages 18 months to 7, and for preteens and teens. On Fridays, the kids are treated to Emily Butterfly's Amazing Puppet Show. Yeah, it's an art academy and pup-

pet theater.

Pixie founder Kristin Scagliotti, who has a master's degree in art from U.C. Berkeley, was a school teacher for San Francisco Unified and lives in Glen Park. She says she is so happy she found the (former Andiamo Deli) space at a reasonable rent, so she can develop her art-based curriculum.

"We are pretty excited with the response we've gotten from the neighborhood, and have more than 40 students in the short time we have been open," says Scagliotti. "We have been getting a lot of drop-offs, and the space is great—very open with great sunlight. I am very optimistic about the coming months."

Summer camp signups are starting, and coming in August is the Pixie Hall Studios Art Academy, geared for kids 2.5 to 4 years, classes Monday through Thursday. Check it out.

☎ ☎ ☎

**HAIR AND THERE:** Meanwhile, down on Church Street, the Green Twig Hair Salon is completing its one-year plan to move (from 1515 Church) into the long-vacant northeast corner store at Church and 25th streets.

"We will be moving on March 10," says owner/stylist Dana Nelson, who opened her shop here almost three years ago. "I was very happy to be in Noe Valley. Most of my clients from Oakland, where I used to be, followed me to San Francisco, so I started looking for a larger space in the neighborhood over a year ago," she says.

"I went up the street to Hall Realty about a year ago to see if anyone there knew of a vacant store to rent and talked to a man who was there with some other people on some other matter and who overheard [my inquiry]," Nelson continues. "He said he would have a corner store for rent in about a year and showed me the spot. The rent was very reasonable, but he first needed to make repairs. I said I would take it. We 'shook hands,' and true to his word, he built out the store, including all the plumbing you need for a hair salon, and we signed a lease last month."

Nelson says she's also happy she will have enough space to sell Aveda botanical products and hair products. Aveda fans will be glad too—Aveda closed its 24th Street store at the end of last year.

You might be interested to know that Green Twig donates its hair clippings to Matter of Trust, which uses them to make mats to soak up oil spills.

Meanwhile, Lynn Ingham will be closing her Lynn Antiques at 1478 Church Street (near 27th) at the end of April, and selling her nearby residence on 26th Street where she has spent the last 14 of her 23 years in San Francisco. She's moving back to her home in Seeley Lake, Montana.

"After five years, I have had a wonderful experience in operating this small business and coming to work every day, but it has become harder and harder for all small businesses to stay afloat, and I just couldn't afford to renew my lease," says Ingham.

Bargain hunters might want to check out Lynn's shop soon, because all items will go on sale on March 3.

Rumors in Upper Noe that the very popular Twin Peaks Pizza on Church Street near 29th has changed hands (perhaps because of the ABC notice on the window last month) are not true. "We just changed the business entity from an LLC to a corporation," says owner Bruno Matos, "and we are doing some interior decorating of our dining room to try to encourage more people to dine with us." During the month of March, Matos says he will be selling his house wines to anyone who dines at the restaurant for \$2.99 a bottle.

"We found out that about 78 percent of

our business is delivery service, 16 percent is pickup, and 6 percent of our customers dine here," he says, "so we are going to make a big effort to encourage our customers to come to the restaurant to eat."

And you can give short shrift to any rumor that some kind of store is being constructed in Phoenix Books' old space on 24th and Vicksburg. According to building owner Sue Bowie, the building is not currently for sale, nor is the store for rent, but rather she is making repairs to the foundation.

☎ ☎ ☎

**WIN A DREAM HOUSE:** And speaking of real estate, a "Dream House" located in Noe Valley is being raffled off this month to benefit the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. For \$150 you can purchase a lottery ticket for the 3,000-square-foot Arts and Crafts home, valued by the raffle's sponsors at \$3 million. They won't reveal the exact location of the home, for security reasons, but the NVBI has learned it is within a two-block radius of 24th and Douglass streets.

The grand prize winner in the July 10 drawing can take the house or \$1.5 million in cash. If you miss out on the house, there are \$350,000 in additional prizes.

To buy tickets, call 1-800-870-7886 or download the registration form at [www.sfraffle.com](http://www.sfraffle.com).

☎ ☎ ☎

**NOE QUIZ:** Here is a pop quiz for all you Noekins. Email [mazook@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:mazook@noevalleyvoice.com) no later than April Fool's Day. The prize for those who get all the answers correct is the satisfaction of knowing you are a bona fide Noe-It-All.

1. What year did dentist Barry Kinney open his office in Downtown Noe Valley?
2. When and where did the Noe Valley Deli first open its doors?
3. Who occupied the space prior to Noe Valley Deli (at its current location)?
4. In 1970, what was the name of the restaurant located on the corner of 24th and Sanchez, where La Boulange is currently located?
5. What year was the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club organized?
6. Who was the first president of the Friends of Noe Valley?
7. What is the name of the building in

which Toast and Starbucks are located?

8. Where is the seventh steepest hill in the city?

9. Where was Star Magic's first store in Noe Valley?

10. What costs \$5,000 a second?

☎ ☎ ☎

**YOUR GEEK SCORE:** And here are the answers to the Tech Treasure Hunt:

1. The clue was found between books by authors Lodge and London on the shelves at both Phoenix and Cover to Cover bookstores.
2. Refers to Café XO at 30th and Church.
3. That's Fire Station 11, on 26th near Church.
4. These are the lead actors in the TV comedy *Spin City*, referring to Spin City Laundromat, 26th and Sanchez.
5. The grade of what is described as the steepest street in the city, the 22nd Street hill between Vicksburg and Church.
6. Just for Fun on 24th sells Obama religious candles.
7. St. Paul's Church on Church near 29th, where Whoopi Goldberg filmed the movie *Sister Act*.
8. This would lead you to 3977 25th Street. The Act is also known as H.R. 3977, and Temple Street is what 25th Street used to be called over a hundred years ago. (Smith says this is the hardest one, but 12 teams got the answer by using the Internet.)
9. This was the original price tag for the Noe Valley Library, which was built in 1916.
10. The vacant lot at Church and 28th streets, where the Blue Church was just demolished. Originally built in 1916, it housed the Searchlight Theater. The last movie was shown there in 1965 when it was called the Del Mar.

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**UNLIKE JULIUS CAESAR:** May you enjoy the Ides of March. We'll meet you back here for April Fool's festivities. Ciao for now.



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# THE LAST PAGE

## Poems

by Toshi Washizu

### Monshirocho

White-robed butterfly  
flittering in the atrium  
lands on a plump limb—  
a naked baby  
opens her eyes  
to the burning glass of morning.

Out of mild blue,  
spring rain weaves its silver.  
*How is it possible*  
*that what I care for most*  
*has vanished?* a young girl weeps.  
In the window planter  
the butterfly shelters  
inside a pale peony  
wet with nectar.

On an island  
in the stream of gleaming traffic  
a soiled woman sits motionless,  
eyes drowned in darkness,  
waiting dog at her side.  
*Monshirocho* alights  
on a bony shoulder—  
“God Bless You”  
reads her cardboard sign.

A full moon floods an attic,  
The butterfly lights  
on a picture frame—  
a sterling beau in uniform.  
Dressed and combed,  
a widow sits by the open window  
raising her arms like wings.

### Since the Tree Fell

Under the August sky  
no one noticed  
your fall—muted thunder.  
Tiny insects crawled in and  
out of the parched ground,  
a farmer and an indolent cow  
ploughed loamy soil,  
hungry children hurried home  
and the shimmering land faded  
into night.

The next morning  
the sun rose high, unweighted  
by your passing.  
Birds nested in a scrub oak;  
under its shade  
small animals went on  
with their life.  
I was 21.

It wasn't a disaster  
for the rest of the world  
that you had vanished.  
Seasons passed, untouched  
by the change, so huge,  
so helpless.  
One day dissolved into another  
without question,  
without distinction.

How have I left so many days behind?  
Tomorrow, I will be 70.  
But at the thought of you  
blood retraces  
the music through my stiffened limbs  
that your hands once stirred.  
I only know that you sang in me  
a little while,  
that now a day lingers longer,  
and the moon seems brighter.

### Summer Rose

9 months, 5 weeks, 3 days, and 11 hours since the stroke,  
on her 60th birthday Naomi sleeps—  
a tethered animal that opens and closes her eyes.

“Be quiet for two minutes,” I used to tell her.  
Laughing, she'd say, “Too many stories to tell,  
too many places to go.”

Another day floats in a stream of yesterdays.  
A wisp of fog  
hovers over the palm trees of Dolores Street.

My car moves forward  
as if detached from my shadow.  
Out there summer is going on for the outside world.

To an afternoon poetry class someone brings a twig,  
a wiry, broken branch  
from an old tree on Bernal Hill,

checkered bark of rust, dirt, desiccated marrow,  
yet redolent of its secret life:  
soft, moist, pungent green.

I leaf through the pages of my yearbook  
and see more people  
disappearing.

Yesterday Rosemary made her own exit  
the way she chose to live her 93 years:

“Our stories live on in the memories of others,” she said.

Against the blue sky an old shingled house stands  
covered in vines, vibrant red roses—  
a young girl's beret.

### A Poem

On a sun-bleached senior center afternoon  
I write a poem  
of what is there—  
pens, posters, potted plants,  
the wall clock freezing my thoughts,  
a water bottle refracting sunlight,  
memories and longing,  
the dead, the living.  
Those things that sit  
in the back of my mind  
and bite—  
things that no one will explain—  
come to the fore,  
stand  
and walk about.

### Thanksgiving

In the empty parking lot of Home Depot  
three Guatemalans wait all morning  
gazing into the distance.  
Round the corner of a winding road  
a red pickup approaches.  
“Buenos dias. You boys do gardening?” asks the driver.  
“Si, señor. Anything,” Juan-Carlos, the eldest, answers.

In the backyard of a modest country house  
they cut dead branches off the fruitless trees,  
the colored leaves falling.  
They collect debris and bag it in sacks,  
the same as for coffee beans they used to pack.  
Silence  
and melancholy invade,  
then comes peace.  
They hear the whirring cicadas  
among the rocks of the Guatemalan hills.

The evening clear in cold moonlight.

At a candle-lit table  
sits Mary, an 80-year-old mother and retired nurse.  
Opposite, her son Frank,  
a former Catholic priest, carves the turkey.

His companion, Yoshi, a florist,  
dishes up mashed potatoes with gravy,  
candied yams, green peas and persimmon salad  
for the boys nestled among them.  
“Muchas gracias,” they say in unison.

“His first Thanksgiving dinner,” Juan-Carlos points  
to his brother, Alex.  
“How long have you been in California?” asks Mary.  
“Me for ten years. Jose for three.  
My brother came here six months ago.”  
“And your family?” asks Yoshi.  
“My wife and two sons are in Guatemala.”  
“Do you see them?”  
“Not for ten years.”

The warm, radiant banquet recalls  
the last daylight he saw at home.  
Alex steps out of a shadow  
aiming his cell phone camera at the family.

“Let's pray for our families,” says Frank,  
their faces lit up by the flickering candles.

### Once a Poet

Aboard an empty ferry  
he leaves his homeland  
in the last light of day.  
Led by an invisible undertow  
the ship sails  
deep into a starless night.

The wayward wind turns blustery  
erasing the vessel's wake,  
stripping away his covering—  
secrets flying by  
like black clouds.  
A damp moon swallows  
his tongue,  
voices silenced.

Naked, his shadow leans  
forward at the bow  
amid a wordless ocean  
of oblivion.

In the mirrored sky  
flashes of the past  
flare and expire  
like bonfires on water.

He floats on the calm  
toward the other shore,  
speechless and careless,  
buoyed by the lightness of the universe.

Alone at this moment,  
nothing  
but a cold stone in his heart,  
brilliant as the first morning.

### Toshi Washizu

Born in Shizuoka, Japan, at the foot of Mount Fuji,  
Toshi Washizu never climbed his native country's  
highest peak. Instead, in his youth, he crossed the ocean  
to America. He became a filmmaker and for decades  
produced award-winning documentary films. “I come  
from an independent filmmaking background, i.e., I do  
everything—writing, editing, directing, and producing,”  
he says of his career. His movies include *Bone, Flesh, Skin:*  
*The Making of Japanese Lacquer* (1988); *Mr. Ob: A Korean*  
*Calligrapher* (1985); and *Last Testament* (2000).

“Shortly after I turned 50, my first poem arrived, by  
accident or by a design,” says Washizu, now 60. “I try to  
be receptive to what comes my way and to be open to  
where it leads. Once in a while, it becomes a poem. As a  
filmmaker, I looked at the world through the camera.  
Perhaps poetry is another way of looking at our world and  
trying to make sense of it.”

Washizu's poems have appeared in the poetry  
anthologies *Family Matters*, *In Other Words*, and *Poets 11*.  
A resident of San Francisco for 30 years, he currently lives  
on 17th Avenue.

*The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, images, or poetry for publication on the Last Page. Please send submissions, which should be no longer than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com. Don't forget to include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want your materials returned. We look forward to hearing from you.*